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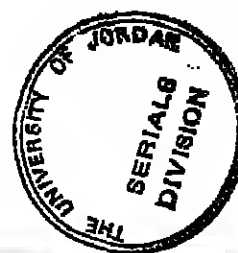
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20 PAGES 150 FILS

Sheikh Saad lauds Egypt's role in Arab world

Visit to stress investment; Prisoners to 'do time' at home under judicial pact

HIS Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah is scheduled to arrive in Cairo today for a 3-day official visit focused on economic and military co-operation.

Kuwait and Egypt will increase co-operation in various fields with particular focus on investment projects, Sheikh Saad said yesterday.

In an interview with the Middle East News Agency on the eve of his visit to Egypt, Sheikh Saad lauded the vivid role of Egypt in development in the Arab world and international peace.

He said the relations between Kuwait and Egypt will be enhanced by further co-operation.

tion in wide areas available for joint action, especially in investment fields.

"Egypt is the Arabs' big sister and is respected by all Arab countries for her firm stands toward Arabs in hardship and in prosperity," Sheikh Saad emphasized.

He added that his visit to Egypt will be a good opportunity to continue fraternal consultation and co-ordination on current developments in the Arab world and international issues.

Kuwaiti investments in Egypt are a deep basis for linking long-term mutual interests, he said, while expressing a firm Kuwaiti desire to strengthen its relations with Cairo.

The Crown Prince said he was looking forward to meet President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr. Ataf Sedki, saying that talks would also examine means of bolstering Arab solidarity to "serve the vital causes of our nation."

He lauded the role played by Egypt in Kuwait's educational development, emphasizing that "Egypt has been extending sincere and unlimited co-operation in this regard since the early '50s, and has opened doors of its universities and institutes for our sons."

Sheikh Saad also praised the contribution by Egyptian expertise towards Kuwait's construction and modern development.

(Continued on Page 9)

Tehran says no to ties with US

NICOSIA, Jan 7, (Agencies): Iranian Parliament member Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said in an interview released today that Iran does not want ties with the United States and that the Lebanese have a right to hold foreign hostages.

On other matters, the former interior minister said developing strong relations with neighbouring countries was a priority. He also said he opposed any direct foreign investment in the Islamic republic.

In the interview with the English-language Tehran Times, Mohtashemi said Iran was interested in developing diplomatic relations with all the countries of the world except the United States, Israel and South Africa.

Mohtashemi said the holding of foreign hostages in Lebanon was an internal matter but he believes that the Lebanese are within their rights.

"Lebanese Sunnis, Shiites, Druze and Christians are the hostages of the US, Israel and other Western powers," Mohtashemi said.

"So it's their natural right to take hostages to inflict heavy blows on their enemies."

The 18 foreigners held hostage in Lebanon are believed held by Shiite Muslim groups loyal to Iran. Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held, was kidnapped in March 1985.

"No negotiations but force is the answer to what the enemies of the Lebanese have done against that deprived nation," he said.

The GCC member states ended their annual conference in December with a call for closer ties with the Islamic republic. Member Saudi Arabia has broken ties with Tehran in April 1988, but the other Gulf states have sought to improve relations since the August 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Demonstrations have been taking place in the Iranian holy city of Qom against any return to political life by Ayatollah Hossein Ali Mousavi, according to press reports in Tehran.

The daily newspaper Abrar said today that thousands of clergy and laymen held a demonstration at the Fayziyeh religious school. Jomhuri Eslami said yesterday that a similar protest took place outside Mousavi's home on Friday.

In Washington senator Charles Grassley, Republican of Iowa, has blasted United States strategy for freeing US hostages in Lebanon, saying US policy itself is being held hostage in an unworkable bond with Syria.

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate easterly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Moderate

High water: 10.30 am, 8.11 pm

Low water: 3.30 am, 2.35 pm

Sunrise: 6.44 am

Sunset: 5.05 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 21°C 70°F

Abmadi: 19°C 66°F

Falaka: 22°C 72°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 11°C 52°F

Abmadi: 13°C 55°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Abmadi: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 21°C 70°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 83 per cent

Abmadi: 81 per cent

Falaka: 78 per cent



Arriving to a new future

A father kisses his newly adopted daughter upon arrival at Orly airport. This little Romanian girl arrived in France on a government chartered plane along with 64 other orphans who were adopted by French families in the last three years but were kept in Romania. (Reuter wirephoto) See story on Page 7

Sofia denies payments

Bulgarians protest against Turkish rights

KUWAIT, Jan 7, (Agencies): Kuwait today received an official Bulgarian statement denying recent reports that Kuwait has paid \$6 billions to Bulgaria to allow the Bulgarian Muslims keep their civil rights and retain their Turkish-Arab names.

The Bulgarian Ambassador to Kuwait, Angel Manichev, conveyed the statement during a meeting at the Foreign Ministry today with Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shabeh.

Manichev, following the meeting, expressed regret about such reports, especially when Kuwait, current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, is seeking to solve the problems of Bulgarian Muslims. The issue will be discussed during the meeting in Kuwait of foreign ministers of Bulgaria and Turkey on Tuesday.

The director of the Arab countries department at the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry has denied the reports. He added that this matter "was neither discussed in Kuwait nor in Bulgaria. I am officially authorised by the Bulgarian government to affirm that these rumours are baseless."

Thousands of Bulgarians opposed to the restoration of Muslim rights shouted down communist Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov at a nationalist rally today and demanded the government's resignation.

"Never again a Bulgaria under Turkish yoke," the protesters chanted outside the capital's Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, built in 1877 in memory of 200,000 Russian soldiers who died helping the Bulgarians win independence from 500 years of Ottoman rule.

"Bulgaria for Bulgarians," "Victory, victory," they shouted as they waved red, green and white Bulgarian flags and screamed for the government to resign before falling to their knees in silent tribute to the 19th century heroes of independence.

But Atanasov told the crowd of about 6,000, "If we all as Bulgarians want to be free then all the people must be free."

"The decision to grant religious rights to Muslims... is not the end but the beginning of dialogue on the ethnic problem," he added.

The nationalist unrest, which has spread throughout the country in the past week, began after the new communist leadership decided on Dec 29 to reverse a decades-old assimilation campaign against the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks and restore their cultural and religious rights.

General strikes today shut down major cities in northeast Bulgaria in spreading unrest over the decision.

Turkey will test the intention of Bulgaria's new leaders this week.

"Turkey will respond to every positive step that Bulgaria takes in this regard," Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said yesterday as he left for Bahrain on his way to talks with Bulgarian Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov in Kuwait.

A Swedish government delegation left Stockholm for Bulgaria today to evaluate if ethnic Turks who sought asylum in Sweden last year can safely be expelled. (See Page 9)

SANGI, Pakistan, Jan 7, (Reuter): Investigators have found that alterations were made to a record of signals given to the express train which crashed last week killing some 300 people, Pakistan Railway Minister Zafar Ali Leghari said.

"The tampered record connected with signalling has been seized," he told reporters yesterday in Sangi, in the southern province of Sind, where Pakistan's worst rail crash occurred on Wednesday.

He said preliminary investigations had

shown the passenger express was given a green signal to pass through number three track, where it ploughed into a stationary freight train.

But the record was later tampered with to show the passenger train was allowed to pass through number four track, Leghari said.

Police have registered manslaughter charges against three railwaymen on duty at Sangi station after the express train driver said he had passed a signal clearing him to proceed.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said sabotage cannot be ruled out but that no definite statement can be made before the outcome of an inquiry she has ordered.

"There was no red light at the back of the parked goods train," Leghari said. "A small red cloth warning flag was put up at the end of the goods train which was not properly visible at night."

Opposition parties yesterday demanded that Leghari accept responsibility but gave no indication he would step down.

Seven dead in home explosion: An explosion and fire tore through a foster home in the southern state of Alabama early on Sunday, killing six children and one adult, officials said.

Alabama fire marshal John Robinson said the cause of the explosion at the private residence was not immediately known.

Fire investigators were at the scene. (AP)

30,000 Soviet millionaires: Up to 30,000 people in the Soviet Union are millionaires, mostly from dealing in the country's thriving black market, a leading economist was quoted as saying on Sunday.

Tatyana Koryagina, a member of the government commission on economic reform, told the daily Kommolskaya Pravda that up to 30 million people were involved in an intricate network of providing scarce goods and services.

Pakistani envoy arrives in India: A special envoy of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived on Sunday for discussions with the new Indian government on reactivating efforts to normalise relations between south Asia's two main rivals.

Abdul Sattar's visit is the first high-level contact between India and Pakistan since Prime Minister V.P. Singh's minority National Front government took power in India on Dec 2. It follows a succession

of visits to New Delhi in recent days by leaders of other South Asian nations. (UPI)

Leaning Tower of Pisa closes: The leaning Tower of Pisa, officially listed a public danger, to the anger of locals, was closed to tourists for the first time in its 800-year history on Sunday for restoration work.

Grim-faced citizens massed in their thousands to watch their mayor, in a hurried ceremony relayed live on television, lock the big green doors of the Tuscan city's biggest money-spinner.

Mayor Giacomo Granchi told reporters he reluctantly ordered the white marble belltower closed for at least three months only after the government promised him 140 billion lire (\$110 million) for repair work. (Reuter)

The right job

Female US MP Judy Kochersperger stands guard with her M-16 rifle as a former member of the Panamanian Defence Force carries a bag of garbage down a Panama City street. (Reuter wirephoto). See story on page 4

Record of signals for crashed Pak train altered: minister

SANGI, Pakistan, Jan 7, (Reuter): Investigators have found that alterations were made to a record of signals given to the express train which crashed last week killing some 300 people, Pakistan Railway Minister Zafar Ali Leghari said.

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Pay raise for govt workers

Kuwait hails Iraqi peace offer

KUWAIT yesterday announced an increase in the salaries of government employees including the military.

The increase effective from Jan 1, will cost around KD85 million (\$280 million), according to a statement issued by the official news agency Kuna after the weekly Cabinet session.

It said the move embodied "His Highness the Amir's desire to be in contact with the conditions of the citizens and his continuous efforts to reduce their burdens."

Chairing a regular weekly session, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah expressed deep thanks and appreciation for His Highness's generous decision and hoped for collective efforts and potentials to translate the Amir's wishes and ordains into deeds and a cause for pride, progress and welfare.

Speaking to reporters following the Cabinet meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed said that the Amir's decree pronouncing the ordain would be issued during next week.

Rashed pointed out that the increase would be confined to the social allowance, excluding children's allowance, at a rate of 25 per cent for government employees. Pensioners and families receiving social assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour would receive a raise of KD30, he added.

Rashed recalled a March address made by the Amir when receiving senior state officials last year in which His Highness had assured that an Amir grant he has previously ordered would not be the least and His Highness's assertion that responsibility is two-fold, first to serve the homeland and then serve the people.

The official also reminded of the Amir's statement at the said meeting about a qualitative leap that would take us into the nineties and that would dominate all economic, social and political walks of life in Kuwait.

In order to provide necessary elements for realisation of this leap and in order to improve the lot of government employees and develop their resources and capabilities within the state's exclusive development plans, Rashed explained that the Cabinet was apprised, at the outset of its session of HH the Amir's ordain to increase salaries of government employees, pensioners and those entitled to social assistance.

The Cabinet lauded the positive proposals made by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq as offering the suitable atmosphere for reaching a common understanding by the Iraqi and Iranian leaderships of Security Council Resolution 598 in such a manner as to expedite its implementation in the interest of both peoples and tranquility of the region.

SPLITTING shares from the previous value of KD1 to 100 fils could be appropriate to some companies' shares, but bad for others.

Preferably, the Ministry of Commerce should grant firms and banks the freedom to decide the value of their respective shares.

The companies can thus decide if the issue price of the share is KD1 or 100 fils. If the issue price of the share becomes KD1, it will mean that each 10 traded shares will be equal in value to one share. This will result in reducing the number of shares traded and will be available to dealers who can offer the price.

This is just a proposal.

Zahed Matar

MANILA, Jan 7, (Reuter): President Corason Aquino, wary of another coup attempt, has ordered the takeover of all private airstrips in the Philippines and the seizure of private aircraft used by army mutineers in last December's military push.

Aquino, in a signed copy of her directive obtained by Reuters today, ordered an investigation of the aircraft's owners and pilots and the suspension of their operations pending an inquiry into their alleged role in the failed coup.

The government air transportation office will temporarily be placed in charge of all private airstrips.

Aquino signed the order on Dec 27 in line with emergency powers given her by the congress to help thwart further coup attempts. She has survived six army mutinies since taking power in a popular revolt in February 1986.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper said most of the country's 128 registered private airstrips were owned by multi-national companies and former business associates of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.



A street child playfully aims his toy gun at a passing taxi cab in Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)

Seize airfields, orders Aquino

Private aviation suspended

SOME of the rebel army officers who nearly toppled Aquino in the Dec 1-7 coup bid were former allies of Marcos, toppled by Aquino in the 1986 revolt.

Aquino issued the order to prevent "the use of these facilities and aircraft in the furtherance of mutiny and rebellion," the directive said.

Defence officials have accused opposition politicians, businessmen and foreigners of giving financial and other support to the rebellion.

Transportation Secretary Oscar Orbes said in an interview his office lacked the men to police all the private airstrips in the Philippines and will ask the defence department to help out by assigning soldiers to the job.

About 500 rebel officers and men involved in the December mutiny remain at large, including cashed army Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

The presidential palace has not said why the order was not published, as it must be to take legal effect. One newspaper speculated it was an oversight.

Dr Issa Al-Nasser

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Dr Issa Al-Nasser

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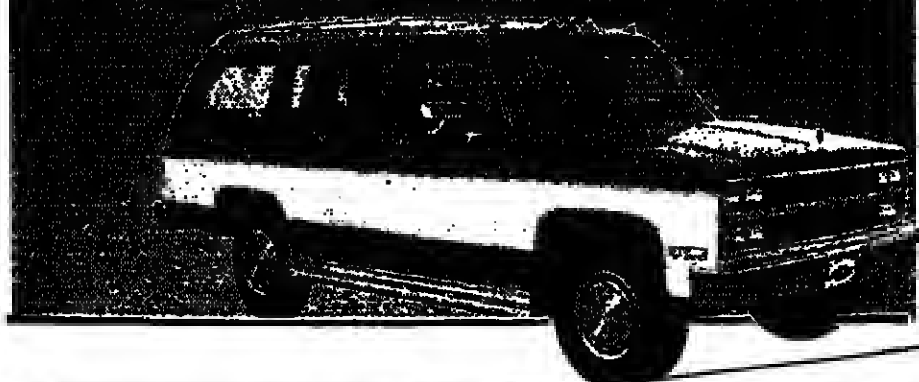
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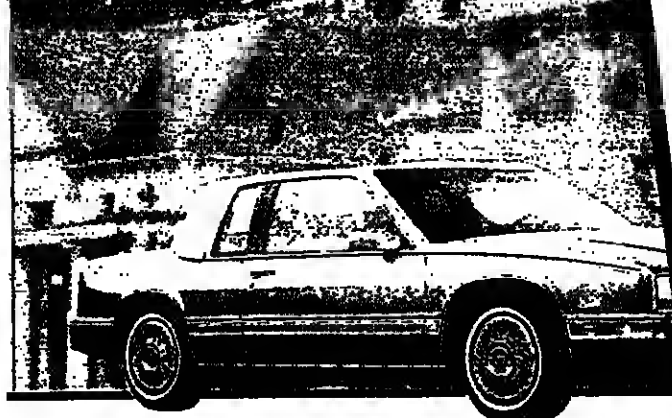
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Ike's grand-daughter to wed

Susan Eisenhower, grand-daughter of former US president Dwight David Eisenhower, poses with her fiancé, prominent Soviet space scientist Roald Sagdeev, Jan 5 in Washington. The Eisenhower World Affairs Institute announced yesterday that the marriage will be held in late January and that the couple plan to maintain homes in both Moscow and Washington. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ringo Starr vs Moman

Claim victory

ATLANTA, Jan 7, (UPI): Attorneys for Ringo Starr and a Tennessee record producer, who was ordered to turn over potentially embarrassing recordings to the former Beatle in exchange for \$74,000 in expenses, each claimed victory yesterday in a contract dispute.

The ruling Friday by Fulton county superior court judge Clarence Cooper apparently ensured the British rock star does not have to worry about the career impact of recordings he made in 1987 while under the influence of alcohol.

"We're very happy with that," said Starr's attorney, Jane Stevens. "Yes, that was our goal."

Atlanta attorney Thomas Washburn III said he considered the ruling a "partial victory" for producer Chip Moman of Memphis, Tennessee, but would appeal to uphold an alleged verbal agreement in which Starr agreed to share royalties on his next two albums with Moman.

Moman and CRS Records of College Park, Georgia, were seeking \$162,000 for expenses such as tapes and musicians' salaries incurred at a Memphis Studio where Starr recorded in 1987, as well as judicial validation of the verbal agreement on future recordings.

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Jackson Pollard, 123, attracts Guinness interest

MILLEDGEVILLE, Georgia, Jan 7, (UPI): Black coffee, a leather reclining chair and a pipe filled with Prince Albert may get Jackson Pollard into the Guinness Book of World Records — if they also got him to the age of 123.

If Pollard's memory is correct, he was born on Christmas Day in 1866, making him the oldest human being alive by eight years. He also would be the longest-living human being on record.

The state's co-ordinator of mental health services for the aging, Alyce Friend, has mailed Guinness information she believes backs Pollard's claim.

Friend said Guinness editors have expressed interest in

Pollard, although Pollard himself is indifferent to the honour.

"I'm still living because God wants me to live. That's all," Pollard said.

The Social Security Administration already considers Pollard the oldest recipient of benefits, although they list his birthdate as 1867. In 1986, Gov. Joe Frank Harris honoured him with a proclamation congratulating him on his 120th birthday.

Much of the confusion over Pollard's age stems from a lack of birth records in the state before 1919, Friend said. Pollard is black, which makes the problem even more

difficult because records for blacks were kept so poorly for so many years.

Pollard, a resident of Central State Hospital for 17 years, credits his longevity to the contentment he gets from his pipe — a gooseneck filled with Prince Albert tobacco — black coffee, and his leather reclining chair, where he does most of his sleeping.

He also is particular about what he eats. Rejecting hospital food, he sends his close friend and social worker, Gertrude Lee, to a nearby Soul Food Restaurant to buy him collards, black-eyed peas, snap beans, cornbread, spareribs and pork chops with his own money.

All that, and "trusting in Jesus" has kept him alive so long, said Pollard, who at one time stood 6 feet 9 inches.

Most of the records Friend found were under the name Pollock, not Pollard. Friend said Pollard had used the name Pollock before he was admitted to Central State.

She could find no record of Pollards or Pollocks in the 1870 or 1880 census.

Pollard said he fought in the Spanish-American war and in World War I, although the army has no record of his service.

However, army officials added that many of their records were destroyed in a fire at the St Louis warehouse.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Critic says Americans can't sing it

Scrap 'Star-Spangled Banner'

BALTIMORE, Jan 7, (AP): Oh say, can you sing your national anthem? Most Americans can't sing theirs, according to a US Congressman who wants to scrap "the Star-Spangled Banner" as this country's official song.

He favours the less straining "America the Beautiful."

US Rep. Andrew Jacobs of Indiana says the song penned by Francis Scott Key after US troops repelled British forces at Baltimore's Fort Mchenry in 1814 also is unsuitable because it celebrates war — and because the tune's origin is an old drinking song — and an English one, to boot.

Jacob's introduction of a bill to make the change, though nothing new, has provoked a chorus of dis-

sent.

"Who says you can't sing it?" said Darlene Frank, spokeswoman of the Maryland Historical Society.

The society held a contest in September to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the writing of the anthem and found "more than 300 patriotic Americans who loved the song enough to want to sing it in public... and a capella, no less," said Frank in a letter dismissing Jacob's proposal.

Critics say "The Star-Spangled Banner" is difficult to sing because it has a wide voice range of an octave plus a fifth.

They also say "America the Beautiful" is gradually eclipsing "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the song of choice at official functions.

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo:

Gabonese president Omar Bongo, offering cash and an assortment of traditional gifts, has married the daughter of the president of the neighbouring Congo.

State radio said the marriage of Bongo and Edith Sassou Nguesso, a 27-year-old doctor, took place in a family ceremony in Oyo, the home village of President Denis Sassou Nguesso about 250 miles (402 km) north of Brazzaville.

Bongo, 54, who has three children from a previous marriage, offered about 170 to the families of his new wife's father and mother, along with

two pieces of fabric, a headscarf, a men's suit, a pair of women's shoes, a shovel and a hoe.

In August, when rumours of the marriage began to circulate, Bongo refused to confirm or deny them.

"People should stop concerning themselves with something that's none of their business," said Bongo, who has been president of Gabon, a country of 1.5 million on Africa's West Coast, since 1967. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Paul McCartney, Dick Clark, Miles Davis and the late Vladimir Horowitz and Nat King Cole will receive lifetime

achievement awards at this year's Grammy Awards ceremonies.

McCartney, Clark and Davis have agreed to appear Feb 21 at the shrine auditorium in Los Angeles for the Grammy telecast, said Michael Greene, president of the National Academy of Recording Artists.

McCartney's impact on music as a songwriter and member of the Beatles, as well as his continuing growth as a solo performer were cited as reasons for his award.

Davis played a crucial role in the development of jazz since the 1940s, the academy said. (AP)

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Noriega 'sold Panama for money'

Military planes and airfields used for drug shipments

MIAMI, Jan. 7. (AP): Manuel Antonio Noriega used his power as head of Panama's intelligence unit, its military and then the entire country to give aid, comfort and shelter to Colombian cocaine traffickers in return for millions of dollars, the indictment against him charges.

Noriega has been charged in testimony of detailing soldiers as bodyguards for Colombian drug traffickers, allowing military planes and airfields to be used for drug shipments, providing traffickers with intelligence information about US anti-drug operations and sending armoured cars to transport drug money.

And when Colombian drug lords were angered over a raid on a cocaine lab in Panama, the indictment says, Cuban President Fidel Castro got them and Noriega together in Havana to mediate a settlement.

"By utilising his official positions, Man-

uel Antonio Noriega and trusted associates were able to assure drug traffickers that Panamanian military, customs and law enforcement personnel would not interfere with their operations in Panama as long as substantial fees were paid to (Noriega)," says the indictment issued in Miami on Feb. 4, 1988.

Since their arraignment in Miami on Thursday, Noriega's attorneys have been working on challenges to the indictment and the court's jurisdiction. They say the indictment was political and that Noriega claims innocence.

He could face up to 145 years in prison and more than \$1.1 million in fines on charges that include conspiracy and racketeering.

The indictment names 15 other defendants ranging from Brian Alden Davidson, a jailed Miami college student charged

with meeting with Noriega to arrange cocaine shipments, to Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the reputed Medellin cartel cocaine kingpin being pursued by Colombian authorities.

US officials have accused leaders of other governments, particularly Cuba, of helping drug traffic to the United States for political reasons, but Noriega's prime motivation seemed to be money, officials say.

US authorities say they have identified at least \$10 million kept in European banks by Noriega, who rose from a poor family and reportedly supplemented his \$60,000 annual salary with interests in casinos, liquor stores, news media outlets and banks.

"Money attracted him (to drug traffic). Noriega really loves money and luxury," said Ambler Moss, a former US ambas-

sador to Panama.

The Miami indictment details at least \$4.6 million in payments Noriega allegedly received for protecting cocaine and drug money shipments, selling seized ether and acetone used in making cocaine to Colombian drug traffickers, and for giving sanctuary to drug dealers in 1984 when the Colombian government went after them following the assassination of a justice minister.

Noriega also is accused of allowing establishment of a cocaine laboratory in Panama's Darien province and helping the manufacture of cocaine in another laboratory in the nearby Colombian area dubbed "Tranquilandia."

A separate indictment in Tampa says Noriega agreed to protect two marijuana shipments totalling 1.4 million pounds (630,000 kg) for \$4 million, of which he received \$1 million.

Panama invasion to be put on trial

Noriega must be freed: lawyer

MIAMI, Jan. 7. (Reuters): A lawyer for deposed Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega vowed yesterday to put the US invasion of Panama on trial before the jailed former strongman ever faces a jury on drug-trafficking charges.

Miami lawyer Steven Kollin said a crucial component of the defence team's pre-trial strategy would be to prove that the December 20 invasion that toppled Noriega and led to his capture was a violation of international law.

"Therefore, he cannot be tried and must be released," Kollin told Reuters in an interview. Noriega, who surrendered to US troops outside the Vatican Embassy in Panama City on Wednesday, remained isolated in a cramped high-security cell in the basement of the Miami federal courthouse where he made his first appearance on Thursday.

A Miami television station quoted an unnamed courthouse official as saying Noriega looked disoriented and like a "beaten man" during his confinement to a windowless courthouse cell known as "the submarine."

But Kollin, who met with Noriega for two hours on Friday, said his client was "upbeat and in good spirits."

Noriega, who took power in Panama in 1983 and was indicted by two Florida grand juries in 1988, took refuge in the Vatican Embassy in Panama City for 10 days before surrendering to US troops.

A government source said Noriega would likely be held in south Florida to keep him accessible to his lawyers but would be moved periodically from one secret location to another.

The source said that authorities are concerned that his life might be threatened by Colombian drug traffickers, worried that he will turn informant or by local Panamanians who hate him.

Kollin ruled out the possibility of seeking a plea-bargain agreement to reduce charges. President George Bush said on Friday the government would not offer such a deal.

"Meanwhile, some members of Miami's legal community said Noriega's defence team appeared to be in disarray. The two most prominent members have quit."

Noriega's remaining two lawyers are Kollin and Frank Ruhino, both members of Miami's so-called "white-powder bar," attorneys who frequently represent drug traffickers.

The defence, which has called Noriega a "political prisoner" and has accused US forces of coercing him into surrendering, plans to challenge the legality of Noriega's capture.

Kollin said he would also seek the release of sensitive government documents related to Noriega's long association with the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence agencies. Some government officials have said privately that such disclosures might embarrass the Bush administration.

Kollin said he would contend that the invasion — the largest US military operation since the Vietnam War — was an unprecedented "illegal act" to oust a head of state and bring him to the United States. He said it would take at least 30 days to file court motions.

In Panama former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark charges that the death toll from the US invasion of Panama is being deliberately undercounted, and a church group is calling on the US government to indemnify Panamanians for damages.

Also yesterday, the new US ambassador, Deane R. Hinton, made a plea for better relations and renewed co-operation to prepare Panamanians to take control of the Panama Canal in the year 2000.

The Ecumenical Committee of Panama said yesterday that the US government should pay for the devastation that resulted from the military assault by 26,000 US soldiers that drove Noriega from power on Dec. 20.

At least 500 civilians are believed to have died in the operation, and business groups say they suffered more than \$1 billion in damage from looting, fires, explosions and gunshots.

However, Clark estimated that at least 4,000 were killed and said there was "an official conspiracy of silence on the number of people who died."

Eight religious fanatics held for cult slayings

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, Jan. 7. (UPI): Eight members of a fanatic religious cult have been arrested for the sacrificial slayings of an Ohio family of five yesterday the self-styled prophet who led the religious sect involved in the slaughter remained at large.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper quoted an unidentified police source as saying investigators believe the family was killed in a sacrifice performed so the sect could travel to the wilderness, where they would be cleansed and could search for a golden sword.

Sharon Bluntschley, 31, turned herself in yesterday said

To gain entry in Vatican mission

'Massacre threat'

ROME, Jan. 7. (Reuters): The Vatican gave refuge to deposed dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega in its Panama mission because he threatened to order massacres, a papal envoy said in an interview today.

"He gave me 15 minutes to decide: either I welcome him or else he would immediately unleash guerrilla warfare in the (north-west) region of Chiriqui. He threatened massacres," said the Papal Nuncio in Panama, Jose Sebastian Laboa, who negotiated with US and Panamanian officials for 10 days while Noriega was in his custody.

"My first reaction was to contact the Holy See. But that wasn't possible. I took the terrible decision," he told the Rome newspaper *L'Espresso*.

Laboa added: "I immediately informed General Marc Cissneros (head of the US Army South). It left him speechless. For them it was a humiliation."

Noriega surrendered to US troops outside the mission on Wednesday and was flown to Florida, where he made a court appearance the following day charged with drug trafficking.

Noriega, who remains isolated in a high-security cell in a Miami courthouse, had been "inscrutable, a man of few words," Laboa said. Noriega's surrender ended a 10-day siege of the Vatican mission by US troops and tanks. His capture was a principal goal of a December 20 invasion when thousands of US troops were sent to protect Americans in Panama and the Panama Canal, and to install a new government.



President Guillermo Endara (C) praying at mass along with Col. Eduardo Herrera Hassan (R), the commander of Panama's newly formed Public Force, and Col. Armando Palacios Gordola, a top officer in the new Public Force. (Reuters wirephoto)

Panama tactics High-tech arms used

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. (Reuters): From high-tech night vision devices to parachute jumps from as low as 150 metres (about 500 feet), the US military is ecstatic over its showing in the invasion of Panama.

Senior officials told Reuters that new, costly military equipment worked even better than expected in the December 20 night strike to smash the regime of strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega, now in Miami facing drug trafficking charges.

The arms included the super-secret, radar-avoiding "Stealth" fighter, which was making its combat debut. Apache attack helicopters, a new jeep and the latest bullet-proof helmets and vests.

Communications, a vital element of modern warfare, showed great improvement, they said.

"I know Grenada was a nightmare as far as communications were concerned," said one senior air force official of the 1983 US attack on that Caribbean island.

Talk abounded then on troops having to use public telephones to call in air support as field communications failed to make connections.

Lieutenant-General Jimmy Ross, the army's deputy chief of staff for logistics, and other officials said thousands of airborne troops and rangers jumped from as low as 150 metres from the open doors of ponderous C-141 and C-130 transports with relatively few injuries.

From those surprise drops shortly after midnight on December 20 to house-to-house fighting over the next 48 hours, officials said arms sophistication was much as overwhelming numbers of up to 25,000 US troops toppled the Panama Defence Forces (PDF) supporting Noriega.

Even of the army's new \$14-million AH-64 Apache attack helicopters which replaced the Vietnam-era AH-1 Cobras, were used in the battle and now was lost, officials said.

"We had great success because it has a night vision system on it," said Ross of the Apache's \$1 million.

The Apaches, designed to destroy Warsaw Pact tanks in Europe, used hellfire missiles and rapid-fire 30mm guns to wreak havoc with Panamanian troops before the sun rose.

Defence officials also praised the HMMWV (High-Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle), which is replacing the World War Two jeep, for its sturdiness. They noted that heavy equipment, including HMMWVs, was dropped by parachute from only 335 metres (1,100 feet) immediately before the parachute hit the ground.

The most exotic weapon in the invasion was the F-117A "Stealth" fighter.

George Rodriguez, a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Kansas City.

Bluntschley was the eighth member of what authorities described as a "fanatic religious group" arrested for the slayings of the family, whose bodies were found buried in a barn in Ireland, which is near Cleveland.

The sect — a breakaway group of the Reorganised Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Kirtland, according to officials — allegedly was led by Jeffrey Lundgren, 39, of Independence, a suburb of Kansas City.

Animal lovers save rat from 'block death'

VANCOUVER, Jan. 7. (UPI): Said the Rat, targeted for death by a plan to squish the rodent in its name of art, was saved yesterday by a group of animal lovers who stole it from a city's public library, but returned it to a pet store after the animal rights group Life Force stole the 5 pound (2.3 kg) cement block squishing apparatus from his home.

Gibson, who has made a career of offending people, announced the waiting crowd — most of who were angry with him — that exhibit was cancelled.

Life Force representatives promptly went to the pet store, bought Snuffy, and placed him in a storey "rat home."

Warship to lead anti-drug drive

Gunmen kill Barco aide

BOGOTA, Jan. 7. (AP): A Defence Department source in Washington said the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy has been chosen to lead an anti-drug effort off the coast of Colombia, but that final decisions on when the warship will be put to work had not been made. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

The carrier and an accompanying guided missile cruiser, the USS Virginia, left on Thursday to engage in routine training exercises in the Atlantic, the source said, but he added that questions remained about whether the warships would see duty in a proposed US-Colombian anti-drug effort.

In Medellin, a motorcycle gunman shot and killed Roberto Lozano Suarez, an adviser to President Virgilio Barco as his car idled at a traffic light yesterday. Police said two other men in the car were not hurt.

Authorities said they had no motive for the killing of Lozano, a 42-year-old land-reform adviser to Barco from the northwest Banana region of Uraba.

In Bogota, a car bomb detonated late yesterday outside the offices of businessman Alvaro Diego Montoya, who was abducted by suspected drug traffickers last Dec. 20. Montoya is the son of presidential adviser German Montoya, Barco's closest confidant.

The blast shattered windows over a three-block radius, damaged half a dozen stores and injured three people, none seriously, police said.

A communiqué issued to radio network Caracol said Montoya's captors would kill him unless four people arrested by the secret police were released.

The police said they had never heard of the four.

The US Embassy in Bogota, in response to radio reports, said the United States was stepping up air and sea patrols in the Caribbean in a bid to block

coastal smuggling routes.

The embassy statement did not give a date for the start of operations, or elaborate on the number of ships and planes to be involved.

"All operations will be conducted in international waters far from the Colombian coast," it said. "Contacts with boats and planes will follow norms dictated by international laws and practices."

Radio networks Caracol and RCN quoted unidentified US Defence sources as saying the Kennedy and the Virginia were headed for Colombia's Caribbean Coast to set up a blockade. They did not elaborate.

US Defence Department information officer Chris Cimko confirmed that the Kennedy and the Virginia had sailed from the United States on Thursday but said they were headed for routine training in the Atlantic.

Meanwhile yesterday, leftist rebels continued a violent campaign in the countryside. Mayor Carlos Torrado, of the town of Abrego, and three others died in a rebel land mine yesterday as they drove down a road in the northeastern state of Norte de Santander, police said. Abrego is 250 miles (400 km) northeast of Bogota.

The New York Times, in today's editions, said US officials had planned to announce details of the drug plans earlier, but that Colombian authorities refused this past week to meet with a US team that had been sent to explain the navy plan.

US administration officials said in Washington, however, that they are confident Barco will co-operate with the US plan.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is expected soon to announce a White House-approved plan for getting US military forces more deeply involved in the international drug battle.



Klansmen rally

About 50 white supremacists held a rally Wednesday morning, facing about 100 counter-demonstrators and surrounded by more than 2,000 police who sealed off an area surrounding the state Capitol building.

The Ku Klux Klan-led rally ended without any confrontations after about 75 minutes. However, a shouting match broke out as Klansmen returned to their cars. Counter-demonstrators a half-block away began jeering and the supremacists responded with shouts and Nazi-style salutes.

As a Klan motorcade left the Capitol area, counter-demonstrators burned a figure made of sheets as a Ku Klux Klan effigy.

Officials said 1,594 Georgia National Guardsmen, 300 Atlanta police officers, 184 State Troopers and 145 agents from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation were present during the rally, separating the Klan contingent from about two dozen counter-demonstrators who marched two blocks away.

About 30 of the white supremacists were dressed in white Klan robes, while others wore camouflage fatigues or pseudo-Nazi garb.

Chants from the counter-demonstrators and the rumble of police and television helicopters drowned out the Klan.

Picture shows an angry Klansman yelling at a reporter. (Reuters wirephoto)



Mike Harari: believed to be Noriega's 'main man'

Verdict to be test-case 'Worm' trial opens

SYRACUSE, New York, Jan. 7. (AP): The man charged with crippling a computer system used by Nasa and the military goes to trial Monday, and computer experts foresee benefits no matter what the verdict.

Robert T. Morris Jr., 24, is the first person to be tried criminally under the three-year-old federal computer fraud and abuse act.

The one-time doctoral student at prestigious Cornell University is accused of designing and setting loose in November 1988 a rogue programme that replicated wildly, immobilizing an estimated 6,000 computers linked to a research computer network, including computers at a National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility and the US Air Force Logistics Command.

"It's a no-loss situation because the trial will showcase the weakness of computer security and current computer security law," said Harold Highland, a professor emeritus of computer science for the State University of New York and editor of "Computers and Security," a trade journal.

"If the government loses, (computer security advocates) will say there is a need for stronger laws. If the government wins, they'll say he did it because the system is weak and we need to tighten up the system," said Highland.

"Either way it goes, the pure attention is going to fuel the cry for tougher laws and better security," agreed Christopher A. Breceda, a top officer with American Computer Security Industries Inc., a maker of security systems.

Computer crime specialists view Morris' case as the first real test of the three-year-old federal law, which they claim is too ambiguous. It is a felony to "intentionally access a federal interest computer without authorisation and alter, destroy or damage information," or "prevent access" to such computers.

The law applies only to federal government computers, computers of financial institutions and networks involving computers in more than one state.

Appeals court orders fresh trial in smoker's death suit

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 7. (AP): A federal appeals court has thrown out a \$400,000 verdict against a cigarette maker in the death of a smoker, but is giving her family a chance for a new trial on another aspect of their case against three tobacco companies.

The damage judgment had been the first in the United States in a smoker-death case. Rose Cipollone of Little Ferry, New Jersey, died of lung cancer at age 58 in 1984, after smoking for 42 years.

In its complex ruling, the 3rd US circuit court of appeals on Friday affirmed a US district court ruling that dismissed claims of Mrs. Cipollone's family that the cigarette companies failed to warn of the risks of tobacco smoking after 1965, when a federal labelling requirement took effect.

In addition, the court reversed a jury's award of \$400,000 against Liggett Group Inc. to Mrs. Cipollone's husband, Antonio Cipollone of Lakeland, New Jersey, on grounds the company had violated an express warranty, or advertising promise that its products were safe.

But the family did win the right to a new trial against the three on one aspect of the case.

The court, in an opinion written by Judge Edward R. Becker, said Cipollone has "five claims" against Liggett and the other two companies, Lorillard Inc. and Philip Morris Inc., on grounds they marketed the product knowing the risks of cigarette smoking.

US attorney Jay Stephens said prosecutors held out for a tough bargain in plea negotiations to send a message that defendants don't get off easy by using drug abuse as an excuse.

Mum pleads guilty in drug-related slaying of her kids

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. (UPI): A young mother has pleaded guilty to murdering her two small children and attempting to kill a third while under the influence of crack cocaine, a published report said yesterday.

Padrica Hill, 29, pleaded guilty in District of Columbia superior court Friday to one count of first-degree murder while armed, one count of second-degree murder while armed and one count of unlawful assault with intent to kill.

Prosecutors agreed to drop a count of cruelty to children.

Hill told police that the night before she strangled her daughter Kristina, 8, and son Eric, 4, with a

clothes line, she secretly took her husband's automatic bank card and withdrew \$ 60 to purchase "three little packages of crack," the Washington Post reported.

She smoked the drug through the early mornings. Later, she drove her husband to work, came back home, smoked more crack, then took two of her children into the basement where she strangled the eldest child, the report said.

Upstairs on the living room couch, she strangled her son, the report said. A third child, Jennifer, 2, survived Hill's attempts to kill her in the bathroom.

Her husband, a bank teller, found the children on his return from work and notified police.

A nation-wide search ensued while Hill wandered aimlessly around the District for a week, sleeping in abandoned buildings, purchasing and smoking crack.

DC superior court judge Ricardo Urbina has set sentencing for March 2.

On the first-degree murder counts alone, Hill will receive 20 years to life and she must serve a mandatory minimum of 20 years.

US attorney Jay Stephens said prosecutors held out for a tough bargain in plea negotiations to send a message that defendants don't get off easy by using drug abuse as an excuse.

INTERNATIONAL

Over Soviet territory KAL flight allowed

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 7. (AP) The Soviet Union allowed a Paris-bound Korean Air jetliner to fly over its territory today after the plane was prevented from landing at its usual refueling stop in Anchorage, officials said.

The KAL Jumbo jetliner, carrying 290 passengers and crewmen, arrived in Paris shortly before noon (0300 GMT) today after a 13-hour flight over Nizhny Novgorod, Moscow and Khabarovsk in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union and South Korea have no diplomatic relations but they have recently expanded economic and other non-political contacts. Early last month, the two nations established a de facto consular relationship.

In 1983, KAL flight 007 was shot down by a Soviet fighter after it apparently veered off course on a flight from Anchorage and flew near sensitive Soviet military facilities in the Sea of Okhotsk. All 269 people aboard the Boeing 747 passenger jet were killed, causing a storm of international protest.

Today, at the request of KAL, Moscow allowed the South Korean plane to fly over Soviet territory after Anchorage airport was closed because of the eruption of a nearby volcano filled the sky with clouds of ash.

It was the first time a regular KAL flight was allowed to pass through the Soviet air route to Europe.



Piggyback
A Vietnamese refugee carries her sister outside Hong Kong's open "Pillar Point" Refuges Camp Dec 30. Pillar Point is a temporary camp housing legitimate refugees who are able to work and shop in H.K. while they await resettlement in a third country. (Reuters wirephoto)

UK confirms secret talks

Thatcher aide visited China

LONDON, Jan 7. (AP) Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's foreign policy adviser secretly visited Beijing last month, her office said today.

A spokesman for Mrs Thatcher's office, speaking on condition that he not be identified, declined to discuss the substance of Sir Percy Cradock's talks with Chinese officials in early December.

The spokesman said Cradock was one of a number of British officials who had visited China in recent months.

However, Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said Cradock was the first high-ranking British visitor since China brutally suppressed democracy demonstrators in the capital in June.

Press Association said the visit was intended to defuse a controversy over Britain's offer to resettle up to 225,000 Hong Kong Chinese when the colony reverts to Chinese control in 1997.

The Chinese government has attacked the offer as a gross violation of agreements between Britain and China.

Sir David Wilson, governor of Hong Kong, plans to visit Beijing this week, and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will be visiting Hong Kong this month.

Mrs Thatcher's offer to resettle 225,000 people from Hong Kong has also provoked protests within her Conservative Party.

Former party chairman Norman Tebbit, in an interview today with David Frost on Independent Television, said that Britain should only accept "tens of thousands" from Hong Kong.

Khmer rebels step up attacks

BANGKOK, Jan 7. (Agencies) Khmer Rouge rebels said today their forces were engaged in heavy fighting in Cambodia's second largest city and had ambushed government tanks sent to relieve the beleaguered town.

Western diplomats said the attack would be a major blow to morale in Phnom Penh, which has lost control of large rural areas in the west to rebels but has so far held onto towns.

The offensive could not be independently confirmed.

Defenders in the provincial capital of Battambang, 230 km (127 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh, called in tanks to support them after the attack was launched on Friday, Khmer Rouge radio, monitored in Bangkok said.

As the government armor and reinforcements approached the town they were ambushed and partly routed by the Khmer Rouge, the radio said.

The rebels attacked the regional military headquarters, the city's airport at Bek Chan, the new market, and what the radio described as Vietnamese barracks.

"Battambang town burns brightly. The fire was still raging at dawn," it said, quoting from a dispatch received yesterday.

On the 14th anniversary of the Jan 7 installation of the Phnom Penh government "the Hanoi-Vietnamese enemy aggressors are in a situation of defeat and great difficulty in every field," a commentary on Khmer Rouge radio said.

Cambodia marked the 11th anniversary of the overthrow of the bloody Khmer Rouge regime in a somber mood today, calling for increased military recruitment and new talks on a UN-supervised political settlement.

On the anniversary of the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge by Vietnamese troops Jan 7, 1979, the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh gave new indications it was moving away from communist ideology in a bid to increase its popular support.

Chanting Buddhist monks appeared for the first time on national television and radio preceding the anniversary speech by President Heng Samrin.

Heng Samrin, who also is leader of the Cambodian Communist Party, emphasized that Buddhism is now the state religion.

Heng Samrin called for new peace talks on Cambodia, saying his government would be "flexible" in considering proposals to give the United Nations a major role in supervising a peace agreement.

Foreign Ministry sources said detailed studies were under way of the UN peace-keeping operation under way in Namibia as a possible model for peace in Cambodia.

They said Australian Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Costello was due in Phnom Penh later this week for further discussion of the peace plans.

Heng Samrin said the government was committed to cutting the state bureaucracy and allowing more private enterprise, but said greater sacrifices would be necessary to keep the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge guerrillas at bay.

Kong. "We have to go back to the fact that this government did pledge that there would be no further large-scale immigration," said Tebbit.

He said he support accepting people genuinely at risk after the takeover. These, with their families, would number in the "lower" tens of thousands, he said.

"You cannot say on the one hand that you hand back Vietnamese boat people to a communist regime because they are economic migrants and not at risk of political persecution, and on the other say you will have economic migrants from Hong Kong," Tebbit said.

In December, Hong Kong repatriated the first of thousands of Vietnamese "boat people" who have sought refuge in the colony.

Meanwhile, threats from Beijing of retaliation for US support of Chinese students has raised new questions about President George Bush's policy of secret diplomacy with China after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The White House says high-level US missions to Beijing last July and December helped ease tensions between the two countries, but one Bush official refused to specify what the Chinese have done to show a turn towards democracy.

Moreover, a published threat last week that China will strike back against the United States for Bush's promise to let Chinese students remain here if they fear persecution at home did little to raise hopes of reforms in China.

Bomb blast near Indian Parliament
NEW DELHI, Jan 7. (AP) A small homemade bomb exploded under a tree outside Parliament today but no one was injured, police said.

"It was a very crude device without much lethal power," a senior police official said. "There is no damage to person or property."

No one has claimed responsibility for the blast, said the official, who spoke on condition he not be named.

Parliament was not in session when the explosion occurred at 9:05 am (0335 GMT).

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**58 journalists
killed in action**
BRUSSELS, Belgium, Jan 7. (AP) The International Federation of Journalists Friday said 58 journalists had been killed on duty last year and called for an international action to protect the profession.

The number of journalists killed in action reached in 1989 a painfully high level. "If president Mitterrand told a news conference here, she said her organization would make protection of journalists one of its main goals this year."

"When a journalist dies," she said, "this is not only a personal tragedy for the family, it is also a direct attack at freedom of expression and freedom of the press."

Ms Doornik called for a concerted international action aiming at increasing the safety of journalists "who are increasingly the victims of governments which want to censor (information) through violence."



Joy ride
A young girl rides along in her sled as her father propels them across the ice in a sled made to look like a goat at Purple Bamboo Park in Beijing. Thousands of Beijing residents pour into city parks on Sundays to enjoy winter activities. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japan's imperial family, officials mark Hirohito death anniversary

TOKYO, Jan 7. (AP) Japan's imperial family and ranking government officials today marked the first anniversary of emperor Hirohito's death with ceremonies at the imperial palace and the late monarch's tomb.

The anniversary ended an official year-long mourning period for the royal household, which in coming months will celebrate the marriage of a prince and the coronation of Hirohito's son, Emperor Akihito.

Earlier today, Akihito and Empress Michiko presided over a quiet ceremony in an imperial palace chamber where, according to tradition, the late emperor's spirit is enshrined until his tomb is completed.

US envoy visits Kwangju

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 7. (AP) US Ambassador Donald Gregg met today with leading citizens of Kwangju in an apparent effort to turn around anti-American sentiment in the provincial city, scene of a 1980 civil uprising.

Gregg, who assumed the Seoul post last year, was the first US ambassador to visit Kwangju since a 10-day uprising left approximately 200 people dead and more than 1,500 others wounded, by official count.

Anti-US sentiment has been relatively high in Kwangju, many of whose citizens believe that Washington condoned the use of the Korean military to suppress the uprising.

Washington repeatedly has denied the allegations but Gregg's two immediate predecessors — James Lilley and Richard Walker — had both stayed away from the city.

Today, Gregg had dinner with dozens of leading citizens, including Mayor Choi In-Ki, at a downtown restaurant. He was scheduled to meet with dissident and student leaders in the city before returning to Seoul on Tuesday.

The South Korean News Agency, Yonhap, quoted Gregg as describing his trip to Kwangju as "routine and nothing special." It said the ambassador was expected to try to explain Washington's position on the 1980 bloodshed.

Gregg also expressed hope that the US cultural centre in the city, shut down temporarily last year, would reopen at a new location before the end of this year, Yonhap said.

Brunei frees six politicians

27 years in detention

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7. (Reuters) The oil-rich Sultanate of Brunei has released six political detainees held under its internal security act since an abortive revolt 27 years ago which was suppressed by British-led Gurkha troops.

Ruler and Prime Minister Sultan Hassanali Bolkiah agreed to release the six yesterday, according to a statement from Brunei's state-run broadcasting division.

"Before their release, the detainees renewed their pledge of loyalty to his majesty and the Brunei government and to uphold the laws of Brunei," said the statement, received here on Saturday night.

It said the six members of the banned Brunei People's Party made the pledge in a ceremony witnessed by an advisory committee on detainees and their families.

Former party head Azahari Mahmud led 4,000 rebels in a failed bid in December, 1962, to overthrow Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien of Brunei, a former

British protectorate which gained independence in 1984.

The party had won all 16 elected seats in the legislative council in elections that year and proposed forming a single independent state comprising Brunei and the British colonial territories of Sarawak and North Borneo (now Sabah).

The revolt, launched after the Sultan postponed the first session of the newly-elected legislative council, was put down after several days by Gurkhas rushed in from Singapore.

It remains the most bitter chapter in the modern history of Brunei, an immensely wealthy country which is situated on the island of Borneo and has a population of 230,000.

The official statement named the six released detainees as Tinggal Bin Mohamad, Sarpanon Bin Sarno, Baha Bin Mohamad, Suhaili Bin Bada, Sulaiman Bin Metarshad and Sheikh Niknam Bin Sheikh Mahmud.

It did not say how many political detainees were still being held.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bulgaria divided over thorny issue of ethnic Turks

SOFIA, Jan 7, (Reuters): Bulgaria's crawl towards democracy has stumbled over the thorny issue of the rights of ethnic Turks which has turned some nationalists against opposition leaders trying to free the country from communism.

Almost overnight, the mushrooming opposition movement found itself sliding in popularity for supporting a Communist Party decision to restore religious and cultural rights to the country's 1.5 million Muslims.

Since last Monday, thousands of Bulgarians full of nationalist fervour have taken to the streets of Sofia and other cities and towns demanding a referendum on the issue and calling for the government to resign for rejecting this proposal.

For now, the struggle for democracy in this mainly peasant nation of nine million appears forgotten as yesterday's heroes find themselves today's villains.

Constantin Trenchev, leader of the unofficial trade union Podkrepa and tipped for possible leadership in a post-communist Bulgaria, has been singled out for abuse by nationalists who have branded him a traitor for supporting the Turkish cause.

"Yesterday I was crossing the square and they wanted to hang me because they took me for Mr Trenchev," said Peter Beron, an opposition leader who, like Trenchev, sports a beard.

He was referring to Sofia's parliament square, which over the past week has become the focal point for the anti-Turkish movement and where Podkrepa supporters and protesters against Turkish rights came to blows during rival rallies last Thursday.

Only last month, the square was a scene of jubilation for ethnic Turks who wept for joy when told they could have their Muslim names back and practice their religion freely after years of repression under a policy of forced assimilation devised and implemented by ousted hardline leader Todor Zhivkov.

The country's 200,000 Bulgarian Muslims, or Pomaks, were victims of a similar policy in the 1970s.

But organisers of the anti-Turkish protests, which began in the town of Kurdzhali in the predominantly Turkish populated south east and spread across the country, say they are not opposed to ethnic Turks regaining their rights but reject the way the decision was imposed on the people by the party.

"We are against the decision because it was done in the old way, by Diktat, from the central committee. We are asking for such issues to be decided in a democratic way," said Stoiko Stoyanov, a member of Kurdzhali committee that has led the calls for a referendum.

Ironically it is the unprecedented freedom allowed under the reformist communist leadership of Peter Mladenov which has let people express their grievances undeterred by police.

The nationalist unrest has sidetracked the already slow pace of reform that has left Bulgaria languishing behind Warsaw Pact Allies further down the road to democracy.

Soweto students urged to defy govt

SOWETO, Jan 7, (AP): Black parents and students today demanded the oulification of high schools exams failed by 58 per cent of black pupils and urged the failing youths to re-enroll in defiance of government rules.

The two steps were endorsed at an unprecedented community meeting attended by more than 1,000 people in Soweto, the country's largest black township and one of the hardest hit by the worsening crisis in black education.

Nationally, only 42 per cent of more than 190,000 black high school seniors passed standardised matriculation exams late last year, compared to more than 95 per cent of white students. At high schools in Soweto, home to 2.5 million blacks outside Johannesburg, the pass rate was less than 30 per cent.

Today's meeting was organised by anti-apartheid activists specialising in education issues, some of whom have spent long periods in detention. The chairman, Vusi Kaniye, was one of three activists who won his freedom by escaping to refuge at the US consulate in Johannesburg in 1988.

Most speakers in the crowded auditorium blamed the white-controlled Department of Education and Training for causing the school crisis through overcrowding, underfunding and lack of commitment to black progress. The government spends five times as much to educate a white pupil as a black pupil.

But some participants said black students and political activists shared the blame. One teacher said students could have studied harder, and a parent said anti-apartheid groups were wrong to have encouraged students to join politically oriented general strikes and boycotts that frequently disrupted schooling over the past five years.

One youth representing a militant student organisation said: "We charge the whole community to take the responsibility of getting involved and to take control of our schools."

Addressing students, the youth said: "Go back to your battle trenches, which are the schools themselves."

■ **Angola:** Angola's US-backed UNITA guerrillas claimed they killed 86 government soldiers and shot down a military transport plane in heavy fighting in southeast Angola, according to reports reaching Lisbon yesterday.

The rebel statement, issued from their bush stronghold of Jamba, said 13 UNITA fighters also died in fighting between Dec 27 and Jan 3.

In a later message distributed to Lisbon, the rebels said their artillery destroyed a C-130 Hercules transport plane flying government reinforcements to the southeast.

The statement claimed most of the plane's occupants perished, but did not give figures.

■ **South Africa:** Two men arrested for fighting in a beachfront children's wading pool were freed by hundreds of angry blacks who pelted police with stones and bottles, police said yesterday.

The incident occurred Friday at the resort city of Durban.

It was one of the worst confrontations since President F.W. de Klerk's proclamation before the Christmas holidays that formerly segregated beaches would be open to all races.

Arms negotiator Graham dies

SEATTLE, Jan 7, (UPI): Robert W. Graham, a long-time Seattle attorney and civic activist who served under former US President Ronald Reagan as an arms negotiator, died Friday after a long illness. He was 74.

Graham served as a personal representative to US Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger and Frank Carlucci in 1986 as a negotiator in the mutual and balanced force reduction talks between NATO and Warsaw Pact countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

St. Helens erupts: Mount St Helens has belched volcanic ash that settled over a south-central Washington community while seismic equipment detected a small explosion in Alaska's Redoubt volcano that prompted flight restrictions.

The national weather service reported a light dusting of ash Saturday, south of Yakima, Washington, in an area about 80 miles (120 kilometres) east of Mount St. Helens.

Steve Malone, a seismologist with the University of Washington in Seattle, said seismographs and other equipment within the crater of Mount St. Helens had recorded a small eruption before dawn Saturday. (AP)

Actor Kennedy dies: Arthur Kennedy, the versatile character actor of stage and screen who was nominated for five Academy Awards in a 50-year career, has died in a Connecticut nursing home, a spokesman for the facility said Saturday.

A spokesman for the Branford (Connecticut) Hospital, a terminal care facility, said Kennedy died at 6 pm Friday of brain tumour. He was 75.

Kennedy was nominated five times for an Academy Award for his work in Hollywood but lost each time. He won a Tony Award on the New York stage for his performance in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" in 1949. (UPI)

27 hurt in jail melee: Prisoners battled with makeshift weapons Saturday night in a 20-minute, racially-charged melee at a badly crowded county jail that left 27 inmates injured, authorities said.

The disturbance began about 9:20 pm (0520 GMT Sunday), when some prisoners at the San Diego County South Bay Detention Centre refused to enter their cells, said county sheriff's deputy Lori-Anne McNally.

"The riot lasted for approximately 20 minutes and it developed along lines between Hispanics and black inmates," said Sgt. Jim Cooke, a jail spokesman. (AP)

Europe

Swiss acquire new plane: The Swiss government has finally acquired a modern executive jet aircraft after years of using an often embarrassingly small propeller plane.

One of the world's wealthiest but also most frugal nations, Switzerland had its cabinet ministers use little short-range aircraft for official trips — the last an American-made Beechcraft King Air bought in 1983. (UPI)

'Save the Alps' initiative: Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and the Bellerive Foundation established by him, will be launching a major initiative in early February to promote grassroots solutions to arrest the pollution of the Alps, a source of fresh water and other vital resources for Europe.

Details of the initiative are to be announced by Prince Sadruddin during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos. Essentially, they seek to provide closer contacts between businesses and community groups and sponsorship for short-term projects in the Alps. (KUNA)

EEC to meet: European Economic Community foreign ministers will hold a special meeting this month to discuss the rapidly changing situation in Europe, Prime Minister Charles Haughey said Saturday.

Haughey, beginning his six-months' presidency of the community, spoke at a news conference following a meeting with the 17 members of the European commission. (AP)

Soviet envoys allowed: The Soviet Union, in a striking display of Glasnost in Nato-member Norway, let two of its diplomats dance, drink vodka, crack jokes and discuss Moscow's reforms on a Norwegian television programme.

"Life as a Soviet diplomat has become more interesting" since President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985, said Soviet Ambassador Alexander Teterin on the live show on state television on Saturday night. (Reuters)

Society to defend Stalin: Admirers of former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, now officially denounced by the Kremlin, have formed a society to defend his memory, according to a newspaper reaching Moscow on Sunday.

The Georgian youth newspaper Molodyozh Gruzii, in its edition dated Dec 30, said the society held its founding congress in Stalin's home town of Gori on Dec 21, the 110th anniversary of his birth. (Reuters)

Latin America

Cuban grass-roots reforms: Cuba's Communist Party on Saturday announced significant changes in the running of its grass-roots organisations, calling for more participation by workers and more choice in the election of local leaders.

The party daily Granma said in a front-page article the changes were a continuation of the process of "rejuvenation" introduced since 1986 by President Fidel Castro to improve the running and structure of Cuba's ruling Communist Party.

No mention was made in the article of the drastic political reforms affecting communist parties in Eastern Europe, where popular opposition has stripped the party of its monopoly on power.

But diplomats and political analysts said the changes by the Cuban Party appeared to reflect the determination of the party leadership that the same should not be allowed to happen in Cuba. (Reuters)

Ready to go

The US space shuttle Columbia is 'ready to go' today but its satellite rescue mission could be delayed by bad weather, space agency officials said.

The Columbia is scheduled to lift off at 8:10 am (1310 GMT) on a 10-day mission to deploy a US Navy communications satellite and to retrieve a bus-sized canister of scientific experiments that has been in space since 1984.

Picture shows the crew of Columbia shuttle. (Reuters wirephoto)

Secret laser gun on UK warship

Labour demands probe

LONDON, Jan 7, (Reuters): The opposition Labour Party demanded an urgent government inquiry yesterday after a Spanish magazine published details of a secret laser gun on a British warship.

The magazine Tiempo said the laser gun was capable of temporarily blinding the pilot of an oncoming enemy plane and had been installed on a number of British warships.

The gun was seen by a Tiempo journalist aboard the British frigate Coventry during Nato exercises in the Mediterranean last year.

Britain's Ministry of Defence said it did not discuss operation details of military equipment and no investigation was under way into how details of the weapon were uncovered.

Labour members of parliament said they would demand an inquiry from Defence Secretary Tom King next week into both the apparent security leak and whether such weapons should be deployed.

"It's such a dangerous form of protection that when the Soviets were alleged to have this equipment several years ago, the Allied governments were completely unanimous in condemning the possibility of such a deployment," said Labour Defence Spokesman Martin O'Neill.

Czechoslovak communists revamp politburo, prepare for elections

PRAGUE, Jan 7, (Reuters): Czechoslovakia's Communist Party, anxious to maintain a say in the country's future, has revamped its politburo, projecting itself as a modern left-wing party ahead of general elections planned for June.

The Communists, ousted from power in December after a wave of pro-democracy protests, met yesterday to try to improve their discredited image. Unlike their Polish counterparts, however, they show no signs of wishing to dissolve the party.

A number of other key groups also met over the weekend to take stock of the future as the country recovered from the euphoria of revolution.

Some, wishing to break with the past, dissolved themselves, while other new groups spawned during the recent political upheaval, notably the powerful opposition movement Civic forum, debated their future role.

Yesterday's extraordinary meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee focused on the coming elections and the need to be more responsive to members, announcing that 130,000 people had left the party since November, the state news agency CTK said today.

A 24-member executive committee was chosen to replace the politburo. It includes party chief Ladislav Adamec, Vasil Mohorita, the former head of the young communists, Central Committee member Ondrej Saling and party officials Frantisek Adamec and Jiri Machalik.

The others are relatively unknown people who will not be full-time party officials, CTK said.

Party spokesman Josef Hora repeated promises to fight the elections as a "modern left-wing party" and party leader Adamec insisted the party was breaking with "deformations of the past."

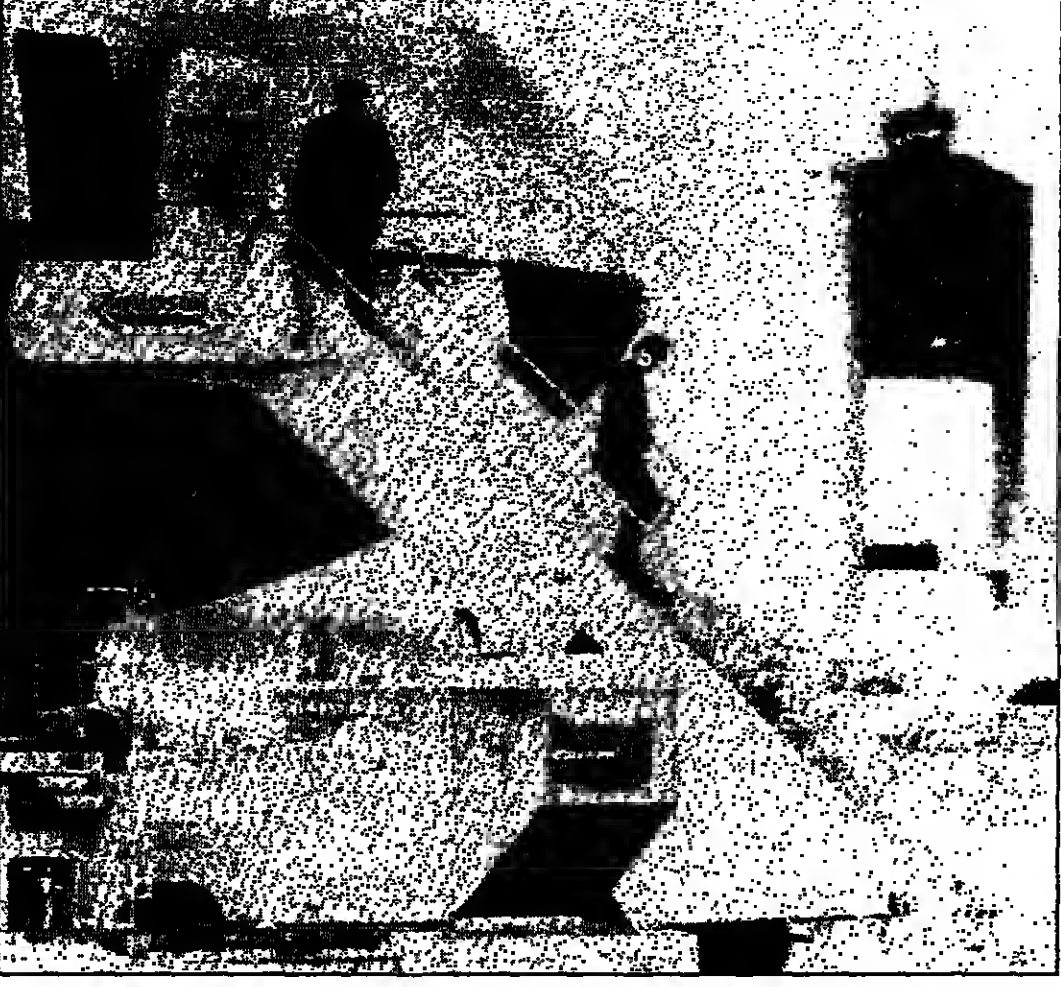
"Socialism is not dead but represents ... an attractive way of tackling the problems of mankind," he was quoted as saying.

Civic forum met yesterday to discuss legislative changes needed to allow free elections in June and to debate whether it should put forward its own candidates.

The forum is currently the most powerful political group in the country after leading the protests which helped topple the communists. But spokesman Michael Zantovsky said it couldn't afford to be complacent.

"If the communists team up intelligently with the far-right party they could make difficulties," he said today.

The forum organised round-table talks earlier in the week with the communists and other parties to help prepare laws governing the elections, free assembly and the formation of political parties.



State police bring a bomb sniffing dog off the British Airways 747, Jan 7. (Reuters wirephoto).

Hoax bomb threat

BOSTON, Jan 7, (UPI): A British Airways 747 jetliner en route from London to Miami made what the airline said was a precautionary landing yesterday because of a bomb threat that turned out to be a false alarm.

There were no injuries and no explosives were found, officials said.

Flight 293 was over Labrador, Canada, when the airline's London office received an anonymous call saying an altitude bomb had been planted on board.

The plane was diverted to Logan International airport, where the 341 passengers and 19 crewmembers were evacuated and bomb-sniffing dogs were used in a fruitless search for explosives.

A reservation agent for British Airways said the flight departure from Boston for Miami was delayed until at least 1 am, today and passengers were taken to the Park Plaza Hotel to wait. Prior to that decision, they rested in the airport's customs area.

John Lampl, director of US public affairs for the airline, said the call came into the Londono reservations office at 1612 GMT, saying a bomb would go off when the plane reached 27,000 feet (8,000 m).

"The plane was already four hours in the air and was at 31,000 feet (9,500 m) when the call was made," Lampl said.

Bonn access to N-arms ruled out

PARIS, Jan 7, (KUNA): French Defence Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevenement, said today that France's nuclear deterrence was a key factor in the stabilisation of Europe and dismissed the idea that West Germany could have access to nuclear weapons.

In an interview with the latest edition of "Le Point" weekly magazine, Chevenement noted that the balance in Europe was based on the "inviolable nature of frontiers born from World War II."

Commenting on the recent political changes in the Eastern bloc countries, and notably the fall of the Berlin Wall, the defence minister observed that only the frontier between the two Germanys could be wiped out.

"There are two things on which there is no going back in the interest of Europe and of Germany as well, the Oder-Neisse frontier with Poland on the one hand, and on the other hand Germany's non-access to nuclear weapons," he said.

Talking about France's "Hades" short-range nuclear missile, the minister indicated that that type of missile was at the service of Europe.

"It is not a field weapon, it is not to be used as a political weapon, corresponding to the concept of the ultimate warning which is aimed at making it possible for us to control eventual crises," he added.

He ruled out the suggestion that the Germanys were that type of missile as a threat saying that France's nuclear weapons play a "stabilising role."

"They protect peace, and, therefore, Germany itself by being a deterrent to any conventional aggression from which no one is eternally protected," he noted.

Poles to dissolve Communist Party

Stripped of Marxism

WARSAW, Jan 7, (Reuters): Poland's Communist Party leaders, seeking political survival in a democratic Eastern Europe, have agreed to dissolve their party and form a new "Democratic Socialist Party" stripped of Marxism.

At a meeting yesterday the 230-member Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party (PUWP) approved the agenda for a congress that will dissolve the party on Jan 27 and establish the new group in the following two days.

In an effort to woo voters, the committee obliquely approved a draft programme for the new party that is one of the frankest self-criticisms ever drawn up by an East bloc Communist Party.

It confesses its responsibility for Stalinist crimes, disowns the dictatorship of the proletariat and declares communist rule in East Europe "erroneous" from the start.

The Central Committee also authorised the 1,637 congress delegates to choose a name for the new party, offering six suggestions like Polish Social Democratic Party, Polish Labour Party or Polish Workers Party.

The PUWP will be the second Communist Party to disband amid the changes that have swept away Eastern Europe's Stalinist rulers. Hungary's Communist Party dissolved itself in October.

Polishuro member Leszek Miller told the Central Committee a new leftist party was needed because the PUWP "is not capable of meeting the challenges of modern times."

The PUWP crashed to humiliating defeat by Solidarity in parliamentary elections last June and lost power to a Solidarity-led government in September.

The sources of the party's strength have run out and so have the possibilities of ever regaining the confidence of society," the draft programme said.

The draft was so controversial that the Central Committee forwarded it to the congress without debate.

Its denunciations of everything communism stood for raised expectations of splits between reformers and hardliners when it is debated at the congress, possibly leading to the formation of more than one new party.

Albania resists calls to change

VIENNA, Jan 7, (AP): The leaders of isolated Albania, Europe's last bastion of Stalinism, staunchly deny any intention of bowing to democratic reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

But analysts believe that Communist Party chief Ramiz Alia will come under increasing pressure to change, both from abroad and inside the country, where cautious reforms increasingly conflict with the rigid communist society.

There were unconfirmed reports of unrest at Tirana University's spartan dormitories last summer. And Yugoslav media have mentioned anti-government protests in the cities of Shkoder and Korca last fall — reports denied by Albania.

Leaflets

Klodian Leka 1, the pretender to Albania's throne who has lived in South Africa for the past 10 years, said in an interview published Friday that leaflets calling on Albanians to overthrow their hardline government will be dropped from balloons into the closed Balkan nation.

Albanian emigre groups in Europe meanwhile are said by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug to have petitioned West European parliaments to help Albania win freedom.

Outwardly, Alia has shown no sign of yielding to such pressure. In a New Year's message to his people, he denounced what he called a foreign "campaign of slanders" to get Albania to follow the democratic trends in Eastern Europe.

The very reference to Eastern Europe, and the specific reference to campaigns abroad, may indicate, however, that Alia in fact faces question about reform at home.

On Dec 12, Alia justified the refusal to follow Eastern Europe by stressing that Albania, which severed its ties with Moscow in 1961 and China in 1978, is not like other communist lands.

Developed

Processes like those in Eastern Europe "will not occur in Albania," he said. "Why? Primarily, because Albania is not the East. Albania and Eastern Europe have developed along completely different ideological, political, economic and social roads."

Albania is the last East European country to reverse Josef Stalin, whose giant statue stands in the capital, Tirana.

Even more important is communist Albania's founding father, Enver Hoxha, who died in 1985. A grandiose museum in Tirana opened last year is intended to enshrine Hoxha's every word and deed in the national memory.

Visitors to Tirana report that schoolchildren are brought to the museum as part of their strict education as loyal citizens of Albania.

Albania prides itself in being self-reliant, and laws forbid the country from taking foreign loans. Bankers dot the landscape, underlining the government's determination to repel any attackers.

Signs

Yet there are signs that young people, in particular, are increasingly influenced by Italian, Yugoslav and Greek television programmes instead of Albanian television, which broadcasts only in the evening.

Analysts pay close attention to signs of restiveness among Albanian youths — mindful that democratic revolutions in East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Romania were propelled by young people.

Louis Zanga, an Albanian specialist at the US-funded Radio Free Europe radio station, noted in August and September an unusual discussion of taboo topics such as rock music and fashions youths can't find in Albanian stores.

According to Zanga, the leader of a youth union, Mehmet Elezi, criticised conservative bureaucrats for their handling of a poll of young people, who, on guarantee of anonymity, unexpectedly spoke of their love for rock music.

مكذاه الأهل

Soviet Muslims cross border into Iran

NICOSIA, Jan 7. (AP): Three Soviet Muslims crossed into Iran's Azerbaijan province at the weekend and returned home after a day-long visit carrying souvenirs and copies of the Holy Quran, Islam's holy book, state-run Tehran radio reported today.

The broadcast, said the Soviet Azerbaijanis crossed the Araks River which forms part of the Soviet-Iranian border and visited with Iranian Muslims in the village of Poldasht yesterday.

It did not say if the men swam across the river or used boats.

Four Soviet youths cut barbed wire border fences on the Araks River and swam to the Iranian side a

week ago. A fifth companion drowned.

Rampaging protesters demanding unification of Soviet Azerbaijan with the adjacent northern Iranian province also populated by ethnic Azerbaijanis tried to break open the border in recent demonstrations.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said 7,500 protesters destroyed guard, observation towers, electronic alarm equipment and communications lines along the border in the unrest that began Dec 31.

It said one person was killed in a clash among the protesters, but did not disclose a figure for the

injured or say when exactly the incident happened.

Border guards did not use their weapons and none was hurt despite threats against them, it added.

The seeds of the unrest were sown Dec 4, when a crowd of Soviet Azerbaijanis gathered at the border and called through loudspeakers on their Iranian neighbours to unify their regions, the state-run Soviet newspaper Izvestia reported earlier.

The Iranian report on the latest Soviet visitors coincided with a report on Moscow radio that the Azerbaijan government has promised to allow more access to arable land on the banks of the Araks River and to take measures to make it easier to cross

the border into Iran.

Iran is making efforts to win love and affection of Soviet Azerbaijanis in light of disturbances facing that area recently.

A high ranking Iranian delegation headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Mahmoud Faidi left Tehran yesterday for talks with Iranian officials on facilitating travel of residents of Azerbaijan to Iranian cities.

The Irna news agency said Faidi will deliver a message from Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Soviet counterpart Edouard Shevardnadze dealing with issues of common concern.

Moscow may accept break

Gorby meets Lithuania chiefs

MOSCOW, Jan 7. (UPI): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other politburo members ended two days of meetings with Lithuanian Communist Party leaders yesterday amid signs that Moscow may accept their demand for independence.

In a possible positive influence on Gorbachev, Algirdas Brazauskas, the Lithuanian party chief who led the recent split from the national party, refused to deliver a scheduled New Year's Eve speech on Lithuanian television after it broadcast a puppet show that made fun of Gorbachev, the Sovietistika Kultura newspaper said.

Gorbachev was scheduled to lead a high-level delegation to Vilnius on Wednesday for what had been described as a three-day mission to persuade the recalcitrant Lithuanian communists to reverse their Dec 20 decision to form the first independent republican party in Soviet history.

But the official Izvestia government newspaper quoted Rolandas Pavilenis and V. Korniienko, two of 11 Lithuanian communist leaders who met with Gorbachev and the other politburo members in Moscow, as saying after the talks that they believed the national party leaders had reconciled themselves to the unprecedented breaking of ranks.

"Pavilenis and Korniienko in their opinion, the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party's central committee is inclined to consider the decision (to split from Moscow) of the special 20th congress of the Lithuanian Communist Party as not contradicting the goals of perestroika," Izvestia said.

Gorbachev, who had warned that the splintering of the Communist Party could undermine his perestroika reform drive, said last month: "If we cross this line, then we can be said to be deliberately aiming to break up

the Soviet Union."

To a further indication of an end to the confrontation, Romualdas Ozalas, another party leader who went to Moscow, said on Lithuanian television that "relations between the independent Lithuanian Communist Party and the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party have been largely clarified."

Pavilenis termed his talks with Gorbachev as "constructive," and Brazauskas told Radio Moscow's Interfax news service that the Soviet leader had "wished to learn as much as possible about Lithuania."

Brazauskas undoubtedly scored points with Gorbachev when he cancelled his scheduled address on Lithuanian television after "a political parody with puppets was shown that was tactless regarding Gorbachev," according to the Sovietistika Kultura account.

Brazauskas filed an official protest with Lithuanian Television, and its head later apologized to Gorbachev, the newspaper said.

The national party's central committee convened an urgent Christmas Day plenum five days after the Lithuanian communists voted overwhelmingly to establish a separate political organisation with its own rules and programme.

Gorbachev opened the plenum with a 90-minute tirade against Brazauskas and the other Lithuanian communist leaders, but the meeting was suspended Dec 26 with the decision to send the high-level delegation to Vilnius. The plenum is scheduled to resume at the end of this month following the trip.

The Lithuanian party approved the proposal to split from the national party with a 855-178 vote, and the delegates who opposed the break later chose their own central committee, giving the republic two chief policy-making bodies.

Soviets vow to open Romanian border

Kremlin offers oil and gas in aid

BUCHAREST, Jan 7. (Agencies): Moving to improve Soviet-Romanian ties, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has pledged to open the border between the two countries and reaffirmed the Kremlin's offer to provide oil and gas to help Romania through the winter.

At the same time, Romania's interim leadership is taking steps toward greater democracy, announcing that it would adhere to an international human rights agreement and offering to give fledgling opposition parties access to the media before holding free elections.

Since Ceausescu was toppled in a popular revolt Dec 22, and executed three days later, the new leadership has moved quickly to overturn decrees that greatly restricted Romanians' freedom and brought them considerable hardships, such as food rationing and shortages of heat and electricity in winter.

In a further move away from Ceausescu's tight rule, Romanian Foreign Minister Sergiu Celac issued a statement yesterday pledging to adhere to human rights commitments that Ceausescu's government had said it did not feel bound to honor.

Celac said Romania would abide by wide-ranging human rights accords adopted last January in Vienna by 35 nations attending the Conference on Security and Co-operation.

The accords promised greater freedom of religion, travel and emigration, a free flow of information and the right of citizens in each country to form groups to monitor their government's human rights record.

The opening of the Soviet border will be of particular benefit to Soviet Moldavians, whose spoken language is identical to Romanian. Soviet Moldavia consists largely of territory annexed from Romania by Josef Stalin in 1940 under a secret protocol to the Hitler-Stalin pact which was recently declared invalid by the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies.

Moldavians have been calling for increased independence from Moscow, and Romania's revolution has led to speculation they could push for a form of reunification.

Asked about the possibility, Shevardnadze said existing European treaties back the territorial integrity of all the countries of Europe and their current borders.

Shevardnadze also invited Celac and Ion Iliescu, president of the National Salvation Front that is running the country until free elections, and Celac to visit Moscow.

Despite fears of fuel shortages in some parts of the Soviet Union, Shevardnadze reaffirmed a Kremlin offer to provide oil and gas to help Romania through the winter. He also said Moscow understands that some Romanian products may no longer be delivered to the Soviet Union.

One of the first moves by the interim leadership was to stop food exports. Ceausescu exported vast quantities of food, especially meat, to ensure energy supplies from Moscow.

Meanwhile, students who fought in the streets to topple Romania's Stalinist dictator say they will mass in Bucharest again today to demand a purge of communists from the new leadership.

The students and emerging political leaders say they do not trust the ruling National Salvation Front because it includes many former members of the defunct Communist Party.

They called for a protest meeting at Bucharest Polytechnic and a rally in the city centre as Shevardnadze gave Moscow's ringing endorsement of the Front and promised supplies of gas and oil to help the country through the winter.

Others were sceptical how effective a strike call would be. "People in the factories are not

After more than five hours of talks with Romanian leaders yesterday, Shevardnadze said the two countries would begin negotiations in the near future on opening the border to allow people on both sides to make contact "without any difficulties whatsoever."

Shevardnadze's visit appeared to mark a turning point in Soviet-Romanian relations, which had been frosty in the past, first because ousted leader Nicolae Ceausescu pursued maverick foreign and economic policies and later because he rejected any reforms.



A French lady smiles as she holds in her arms her two adopted Romanian children at Orly airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

GDR opposition threatens strike

Reforms demanded

LEIPZIG, East Germany, Jan 7. (Reuters): East Germany's biggest opposition group New Forum threatened today to call a general strike if the ruling Communist Party did not loosen its grip on power.

New Forum voted at a Congress in Leipzig to hold nationwide demonstrations on January 15 demanding a more accountable government ahead of free elections due in May.

If there were no visible steps towards Communist Party reform by January 20, the umbrella opposition group said it would call for all-out industrial action.

"We consider it important to keep a strike call as one of our options," congress chairman Heiko Litz said in a statement.

New Forum said it wanted the Communist Party to publish its financial accounts, give public access to investigations into corruption by the former leadership and prove it had fully disbanded the hated Stasi secret police.

Although the communists have expelled former party leader Erich Honecker and most of his Stalinist government toppled in a popular uprising last year, many opposition groups doubt the sincerity of the new leadership's commitment to reform.

New Forum is suspicious of government assurances that former members of the Stasi, officially dissolved in December, have no access to weapons. It fears the communists might build a similar security force to intimidate voters in the May 6 elections.

"Demands and warnings are no longer possible in this country," one regional delegate at the Congress said. "The old (Communist Party) must be forced into changing."

Others were sceptical how effective a strike call would be. "People in the factories are not

very keen to hold stoppages," one delegate said.

East German Economics Minister Christa Luff appealed to workers last month not to strike, saying it could do great damage to the country's teetering economy.

The communists still control the trade unions, but it is not clear how workers would respond if they tried to stop an opposition-inspired strike.

According to opinion polls commissioned on both sides of the Berlin Wall, the communists command the support of between a quarter and a third of the people, well ahead of any other political force.

However, massive weekly demonstrations in Leipzig, due to resume tomorrow after a Christmas break, have increasingly called for German reunification, which the communists oppose.

In an apparent attempt to attract support before tomorrow's march, Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi called yesterday for all foreign troops to leave East Germany by the end of the century.

In an interview on Austrian television today, East Germany's communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow said laws currently being drafted would ensure his party had no unfair advantage in the country's first free elections in May.

"As soon as we have an election law it will work just as it does with you (to Austria), with all parties having equal access to television," he said, responding to opposition charges the party is manipulating control of key offices and the media to ensure success in the elections.

At New Forum's congress in Leipzig, meanwhile, the opposition movement said it wanted to contest some seats in the poll and might consider becoming a political party if the electoral law allowed only fully-fledged parties to participate.

The commune further said "the Sri Lanka side re-affirmed the commitment of their government to ensuring the safety and security of all communities in the north-eastern province and to expediting the implementation of the devolution package (meaning the devolution of powers to the provincial councils). The two sides agreed to intercede fighting in the north-eastern province, including the possibility of arranging a ceasefire."

The two countries also agreed to finalise the friendship treaty.

Abandoned Romanian children fly to West

BUCHAREST, Jan 7. (Reuters): Abandoned Romanian children flew to new homes in the West at the weekend following the new government's end to a freeze on overseas adoptions.

Foreign embassies in Bucharest sorted through paperwork today as the last of the adopted children still stuck in Romania waited impatiently to join families abroad.

The French embassy said 64 Romanian children flew to France yesterday and one more was leaving today.

Twenty other children adopted by French couples were still in country orphanages but their departures were hampered by poor communications and transport problems on Romania's icy roads, a spokesman said.

The children, some orphaned by many simply handed over to orphanages by destitute parents, were originally adopted by childless Western couples.

After being accused by his countrymen of human trafficking, president Nicolae Ceausescu cracked down on adoptions in 1988, lengthening bureaucratic procedures and making it impossible for the children to leave.

The National Salvation Front, which took over after Ceausescu was toppled on Dec 22, has finally allowed the children to join their adoptive parents abroad.

The Italian embassy, which estimates that there are up to 150 children adopted by Italians in Romania, said 18 had already flown out.

A spokesman at the Belgian embassy said they were still arranging the paperwork for 10 adopted children but expected to be able to send them to Belgium very soon.

"It's simply a question of time. Things have gone well for the French and Italians and now we just need patience," the spokesman said.

Embassy officials said they expected to be swamped with new adoption requests from Western couples.

PIA jet has emergency landing

FRANKFURT, Jan 7. (Reuters): All 400 passengers and crew escaped unharm when a Pakistani Jumbo jet with burst tyres made an emergency landing at Frankfurt airport today.

An airport spokesman said the Boeing 747 had taken off from Frankfurt for Karachi a couple of hours earlier. It turned back when the pilot noticed some of the tyres had burst.

The plane, owned by Pakistan International Airways, made a safe landing on a carpet of foam sprayed on the runway to prevent fire.

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VACANCY

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The British Council has an immediate vacancy for a part-time library assistant (24 hours per week). Fluent English essential. Library experience and some knowledge of Arabic preferred.

Application forms to be returned by 10 January 90 and more details from the British Council, 2 Al Arabi Street, Mansouriah.

India reaffirms its commitment to pullout of troops from Lanka

COLOMBO, Jan 7. (Kuna): At the request of Sri Lanka, the Indian government has agreed to re-examine its decision to withdraw the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) from Sri Lanka which, it had earlier agreed to do by March 31, 1990, according to the joint communique released in Colombo today.

This is the outcome of a three-day meeting in New Delhi from 4th to 6th Jan 1990, between Sri Lankan official delegation headed by the island's Foreign Minister, Ranjan Wijeratne and his Indian counterpart I.K.

Gujral.

The joint communique said "the External Affairs Minister (Gujral) re-affirmed government of India's commitment to complete the de-induction by 31.3.1990 as already stated in (Indian) parliament. In response to the Sri Lanka foreign minister's request that the process of de-induction be accelerated, the external affairs minister said that he would re-examine the possibility of doing so and would make his response known very early."

The communique further said "the Sri Lanka

side re-affirmed the commitment of their government to ensuring the safety and security of all communities in the north-eastern province and to expediting the implementation of the devolution package (meaning the devolution of powers to the provincial councils). The two sides agreed to intercede fighting in the north-eastern province, including the possibility of arranging a ceasefire."

The two countries also agreed to finalise the friendship treaty.



Work at telecom tower on schedule

WORK at the new telecommunications centre and tower is progressing according to schedule and the project is expected to be completed during the first half of 1991, Bader Al Qabandi, deputy director of engineering and projects department at the Ministry of Public Works said.

The tower will be 372 metres high and is considered the fourth highest in the world. The new centre, when complete, will offer many internal services and enable Kuwait to contact the entire world, the official said.

Qabandi pointed out that the projects and engineering department of the ministry cover all government projects in all government departments. The department carries out maintenance of government buildings like mosques, social welfare houses in Sulaibikhat, Paediatric Hospital and the Central Kitchen.

Projects

The department is also carrying out a number of projects for ministries of Awqaf, social affairs, public health, foreign affairs, information and the Public Works Ministry beside the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Kuwait Municipality, Civil Aviation Authority, General Fire Department and the Council of Ministers.

Commenting on the most important projects being carried out by the ministry, Qabandi said that they are Amir Souk, Mishref Co-operative Society, premises of ministries of public works and electricity and the new Communication Tower. The department is also building a number of schools and kindergartens for the Education Ministry in different areas, Dar Al Quran Al Kareem for Ministry of Awqaf in Jahra area, workshops for Science Club, health centres for Health Ministry and police centres for Interior Ministry, Qabandi said.

Nasser opens charity bazaar

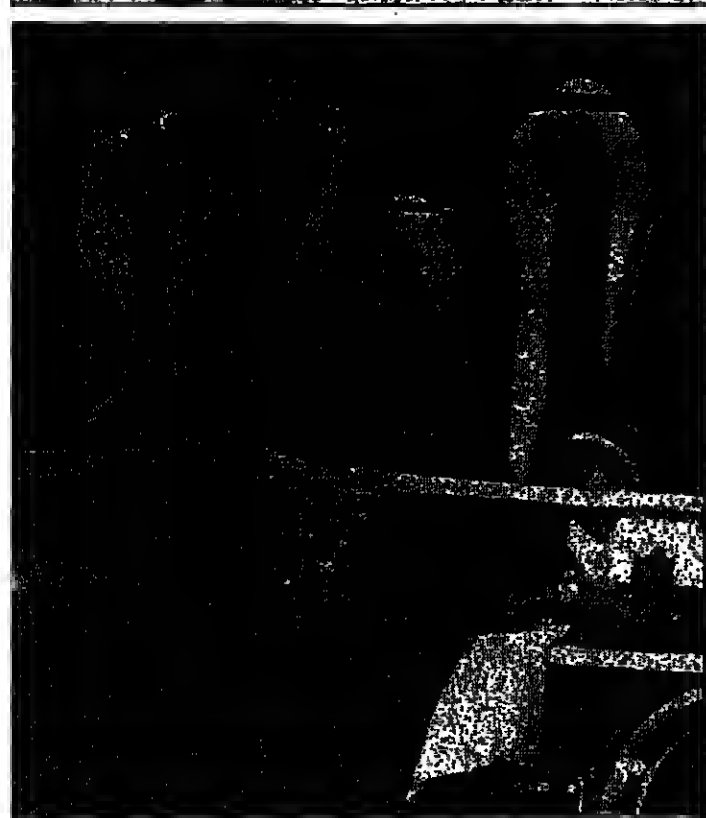
THE Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Sabah yesterday opened the 12th Charity Bazaar organised by the Kuwait Society for the Disabled at its headquarters in Kuwait, in the presence of a number of government ministers and Jahra Governor Sheikh Ali Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah in addition to a number of senior government officials and Arab and foreign diplomats in Kuwait.

Sheikh Nasser in his speech lauded the efforts exerted in organising the event and the love and care provided for the disabled by the society.

He expressed his admiration for the various objects on display at the bazaar, which included different traditional Kuwaiti furniture, antiques, rugs, ornamentation items and others.

The bazaar also included oriental articles, jewellery, Turkish household items and accessories, kitchen utensils, vases, table sets and others.

The society had also set up a special branch for day-time-out-mate programme which housed 77 children and due to increasing number of the disabled, the society is considering to set up a branch in Jahra governorate.



UK pigeon crosses Saudi desert in 5.28 hrs

KUWAIT hosted a contest of relay pigeons to determine the speed of this early communication method, and a British pigeon managed to cross the Saudi desert in five hours and twenty-eight minutes, the race organising committee said yesterday.

The committee said dozens of pigeons flew a distance of some 300 miles (480 km) from the eastern Saudi Arabia city of Dammam, the starting point, to Kuwait.

The fastest pigeon crossed the desert distance in five hours and twenty-eight minutes. The runner-up took one minute longer to make the crossing, and the third bird reached the end point sixteen minutes later.

It was not immediately known how many pigeons had fallen victims to the dangers of the desert, such as birds of prey.

The owner of the first two winning pigeons, Badr Al Samir, said he bought the pair in Britain for \$1,200, adding that he had received valuable prizes and certificates for his birds' victory.

The participants had earlier handed over their trained pigeons to the members of the contest-organising committee, which were fitted with secret numbers around their legs.

Finance Ministry's income tax code

SARA Ahmad Al Duwaisan, assistant undersecretary for general accounting affairs at the Ministry of Finance, has said that the ministry's planning committee had finalised a draft executive code on the proposed income taxation as also the executive code for government domain and referred them to the Department of Legal Advice and Legislation.

She told a local daily that the committee is currently following the working and performance programme for various ministerial departments in the light of work requirements and the national financial policy based on the national development plan.

Efficiency

She pointed out that the committee's work is aimed at applying unified accounting and financial system at all government agencies starting July 1, 1990. The accounting and financial system proposed by the committee has already been implemented in three different ministries.

She said that the committee is concerned with evaluating the efficiency and performance of each ministry department, both of senior and supervisory personnel. The committee's efforts are directed to foster interaction and co-ordination within each department by way of promoting productivity and create an atmosphere of honest competition.

Integrated digital network system for overseas calls

THE director of technical planning at the Communications Ministry Adel Bo Riaz has said that the ministry is planning to launch a small-scale experimental project to connect the integrated digital network system to its headquarters building for use in overseas calls.

He told a local daily that this would provide the chance for different agencies to appreciate the systems advantages and get to know its different uses. The system will be used world-wide by 1996.

He added that committees at the International Telecommunications Union were studying steps to lay down international specifications to ensure the best possible application of this system and ensure optimum development of the local network and turn it into a modern digital system.



Training course

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Mihallan, director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training opened the DACUM training course for bank's cashiers at the Meridian Hotel.

About 23 employees from various local banks attended the opening ceremony of the four-day course organised by the professional development centre of the authority.

Education no longer once-in-a-lifetime affair

Open university — a new approach to learning

By Madhumala Sengupta

The following article may be useful to the readers who are looking for an opportunity to enhance their educational qualifications while being on job in Kuwait.

IN RECENT times, the open universities have made considerable inroads in the field of adult and continuing education, catering a new type of learning, viz. open learning. Its history can be traced back to the early days of postal tuition, which is still an integral component of it. However, open learning is much more than mere correspondence teaching. Today, it would be worthwhile to know something about open universities which are offering unconventional courses through an innovative method of teaching and learning.

True to its nomenclature, ideally, an open university is open to all. Unlike traditional universities, the age, previous qualification, sex, geographical barrier or distance do not dis-

qualify a student from being admitted in an open institution. However, a system of admission test for some courses has been introduced in some institutions to screen the suitable candidates. The term 'open' has another connotation. Usually the open university does not provide conventional classroom or for that matter academic campus like traditional universities. The idea is to let the students learn at their own place of choice. Thus it is possible for them to pursue a course even when they are residing in remote or otherwise inaccessible places, away from the parent institution. It is because of this reason, the open universities have come to be regarded as Distance Teaching Universities.

As a natural corollary to this feature, the student of an open university is required to study independently, apart from the physical presence of the teacher. Independent study and learner's autonomy are important features of distance education. Based on psychological princi-

ple, it is an established fact that the students learn best when they strive to do on their own. The institute dispatches the text material to the students, who learn through working on it. It should be mentioned here that open university text materials are quite different from conventional 'text' books. These are based more on programmed learning, which facilitates independent study. However, the role of the teacher is no less significant. He does guide the student through the 'tutor' comments given in the assignment papers. Submission of a number of assignments on the part of the students is a very important feature of open learning, as it successfully builds up a two-way communication between the distance teacher and the learner. Moreover, the open university does not discard the socializing aspect of education and it never considers learning as a dehumanizing affair. Commensurating with this principle, the open universities arrange for face-to-

face contact programme (also known as tutorials) between the university staff and the students, under student support scheme. These contact programmes enable the students to iron out their difficulties and problems, besides doing away with their sense of isolation. Unlike old postal teaching, the open universities are increasingly taking advantage of modern techniques of communication and information storage facilities. That is why television, radio, video, videotex, computers are now integral parts of the system of open learning apart from medium of print; which, however, is the most important one. These advanced techniques of communication have somewhat plugged the loopholes of teaching through the medium of print only. In this process, the correspondence image of distance learning has been thrown off to some extent. At present most of the open universities combine print and other media to teach at a distance although

the proportion of combination varies from institution to institution. In this context, it may also be mentioned that some conventional universities (for example Annamalai University and Patiala University in India) have their correspondence directorate, which are quite different from full fledged open universities. Open universities have evolved mostly to meet the new challenges of a changing society. Education is no longer a 'once-in-a-lifetime' affair. An individual has to update his knowledge continuously in order to keep pace with changes that are taking place in an industrial society. Otherwise his skill and information are likely to be obsolete. Moreover, people, in general, now have more leisure time to be engaged in some purposeful activities. Herein lies the utility of distance teaching institute, as it offers the opportunity to study while working. For example, one can obtain degree or diploma in Business Adminis-

tration while being on his job. The individual can also study at his own pace, because, the open universities normally do not impose strict time to complete a course. The open universities survey the educational needs of the students. On the basis of these findings new courses are being introduced, which is why the courses or subjects offered by the open university mostly not traditional, but need-based, stressing more on pragmatic approach to education rather than on liberal arts.

Notwithstanding its potentiality the open university has its limitations. Dropout rate of the admitted students is quite high. It has been alleged that standard of open education is low in comparison to that of traditional institutions. There are subjects which cannot be taught at a distance, requiring laboratory, practical tools and most importantly direct intervention of the teacher. Inaccessibility to mass media, specially in a developing country, is also a hindrance to

PHA plans 25,000 new housing units

NASER Al Roudhan, minister of state for housing affairs has stressed the deep concern of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and Chairman of the Higher Housing Council, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to reduce the waiting period for citizens to obtain government housing.

He added that the coming five-year-plan of the PHA for 90/95 includes the building of 25,000 housing units and said that expectations for housing service in the year 2000 will exceed 62,000 applicants.

He disclosed that an area of 250 to 300 square metres for government houses to be built consisting of three floors is considered to be the ideal situation in the future.

He added that the PHA spent about KDI,500 million on housing projects, besides KDI,000 million on land allotment. The supervisory staff of the authority have gained valuable experience from their involvement in the Dhaif Housing Project and all housing units built subsequently have been of a very high standard, Roudhan said.



Madhumala Sengupta

open learning. But research data on open university are scant and that is why it is difficult to ascertain the veracity of these allegations. In spite of the limitations the open universities are forging ahead; upholding the democratic principles in education, namely, widening access to higher education and life-long education. No matter how open universities are viewed today, there is no denying of the fact that they constitute a permanent structure within the existing system of education.

Legal Clinic

If you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind. Send your questions to Arab Times, Legal Clinic. Our Kuwait lawyer Khaled Taher replies to readers queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.



I urgently need your advice. An application for my wife's visa was rejected because the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour records show my monthly salary is less than KD650. These records were updated over six months ago for pay rises in the last two years. However, due to internal promotion in the last three months, my basic pay now exceeds KD650. I approached the relevant authorities but I could not obtain the "Izaz Amal", showing my new monthly salary. I have been told to wait till I apply for renewal of my residence, which is 18 months away. I am in a catch 22 situation.

Are the authorities acting within the law in not issuing the new certificate until my current residence expires?

What action should I take to break this deadlock? I work in the private sector.

A.J.M.

It is normal practice not to issue a new salary certificate during the period of valid residence.

You have two alternatives: explain your situation or wait.

I suggest you go back to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and explain the situation to officials, requesting them to change your salary on the employment sheet, correct it in the computer and issue a certificate. You can ask them again if your employer's certificate would be helpful in processing the papers.

If this cannot be done, then there is no other way but to wait until your next visa renewal. In the meantime, you can call your wife on visit visas.

I AM a Sri Lankan. My problem is regarding my brother, who came to Kuwait 11 months ago to work as a cleaner for a salary of KD130 per month. So far, his residence has not been made and he has complained to the company manager about this. His boss asked him to keep quiet and not to make any problems, and they will look into the matter. Now my brother has got news that the company will be repatriating several cleaners this month.

My brother can't go back because he does not have a job at home and he is looking after our entire family. Please advise me what to do to prevent my brother's repatriation.

L. Septon

I WOULD suggest you take legal action as soon as possible. Your brother must file a case against the company in the Ministry of Social Affairs, first of all asking for all

his rights; he is entitled to get these as the other party (employer) broke the contract; also file a case against them for not getting a residence for him, asking for a cancellation and air ticket.

Approach the Social Affairs Ministry first, and if the problem cannot be solved they will refer the matter to a court of law. It is essential that you mention the non-provision of a residence as they brought him here and refuse to provide the iqama. (As he has not completed the three year service contract, as stipulated in the 1989 law, he cannot ask for a release).

I ENTERED Kuwait in March 1989 on a visa No. 17 to work for an embassy as a driver. The day I reported for duty, I was told they don't require a driver and the person who had applied for my visa had been sent home. I was asked to work as a houseboy and do the embassy's work. The diplomat lives in the same building and I also have to work there, including washing clothes.

My contract states free boarding and lodging, one month's leave every two years and KD80 monthly pay. The embassy gives me only KD40 salary, and have provided me with a bed. I'm not at all happy. If I complain, I'm asked to go back. Before coming to Kuwait, I spent a lot of money. Now who'll repay that if I don't get what I was promised from my employer? Please advise me.

D.B.J.P.

DIPLOMATIC missions, and their employees, come under the Foreign Ministry. They are covered by diplomatic immunity and a case against them cannot be filed.

Your case can be handled by the appropriate department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I suggest you write a letter to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, explaining your situation and ask them to mediate on your behalf to resolve the problem.

I am a Muslim woman married to a Kuwaiti. I've been living in Kuwait for the past nine years. I've been eligible for the Kuwaiti passport since 1985 but have not yet changed my original passport to a Kuwaiti one. How does one get the Kuwaiti nationality? How many years does it take and what are the requirements? If there is the untimely demise of my husband, and I have not chan-

ged my passport, will I still be eligible to do so?

I have five children, and I am worried about how I would be able to stay in Kuwait if I do not have the Kuwaiti nationality, and my husband isn't around to sponsor me. Also, according to my husband, our government house is registered in his name, our children's name and mine.

The husband must write the wife's name in the nationality file, each Kuwaiti has one at the immigration nationality and immigration and passport dept.

When a Kuwaiti marries, he must register the name of his wife to get a nationality for her, according to the rules. There is a new law that mentions that a foreign wife is entitled to get nationality after 15 years of marriage.

If your name has not been mentioned in your husband's nationality file, he must register as soon as possible.

She can get the passport now, and wait for the 15 years period to get Kuwaiti nationality. If you want to find out whether you're eligible or not, you can refer to your husband's nationality file. The matter depends on whether or not the wife's name was registered or not.

If you're name has been registered, then you can apply to the nationality dept, asking for it, according to the specifics mentioned in your husband's file.

As long as you have children, even minor, you can be sponsored by them to take care of the children.

IS it possible to transfer my residence from a catering company to a semi-government company? If yes, what are the formalities to be completed?

J. Thomas

ACTUALLY, this depends on the agreement of both parties and the acceptance of such an application by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

If the semi-govt. gives you a letter of consent, and the catering company agrees to release, the papers will be submitted to the minister of social affairs for his approval.

In case the application is rejected, then the semi-govt. company can issue a fresh visa; in the event of this happening, you'll have to cancel your present visa, leave the country and re-enter on the fresh work permit.



Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Asim Yaqub yesterday held a reception at Sheraton Hotel to mark the 69th anniversary of the foundation of Iraqi Army.

Premier lauds Egypt's role

(Continued from Page 1)

Kuwait's Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari Al Othman yesterday said that Kuwait will sign a judicial agreement with Egypt on transferring those sentenced to jail terms to their native homeland.

In a statement to Kuna, Al Othman said that the agreement will be concluded during the visit by HH the Crown Prince to Cairo.

The minister indicated that the agreement provides the opportunity for nationals of Kuwait and Egypt to spend their jail sentences in their native countries and near their families and friends.

He added that the accord also realises the goal of the punishment by rehabilitating the sentenced in their natural environment.

Al Othman affirmed that this agreement will further enhance the 1977 agreement on judicial and legal co-operation between the two countries.

Kuwait's target of Iranian missile attack and other hostilities during the Gulf war, has emerged as key potential customer for Egypt's military industry, the diplomats said.

Economic and military relations between Kuwait and Egypt received a strong push during the Iranian missile attacks on Kuwait vessels and coastal regions before the Iraq-Iran ceasefire went into effect on Aug 20, 1988.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak often stated that Egypt was under obligation to come to the aid of Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states against any Iranian threats.

Another cornerstone of Kuwait-Egyptian relations is the estimated 200,000 Egyptian expatriates working in Kuwait. They form the second largest foreign community in the country after the Palestinians.

The traditionally good links between the two countries received fresh momentum during a visit to Cairo last September by Kuwait's Amir and later by the Defence Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

During his November visit, Nawaf extensively inspected sophisticated arms and military equipment produced by the Egyptian military industries and promised to consider their suitability for the needs of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

He added, "the visit comes in a very important period that the Arab area in general is passing through."

Abdul Meguid said the visit will be an opportunity to exchange views and affirm the Kuwait-Egyptian relations and the Egyptian-Arab relations as well. "It is in our interests we the Arabs to meet, consult and co-operate," Abdul Meguid added.

Meanwhile, Meguid met yesterday with the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait Saeed Refaat to prepare for Sheikh Saad's visit.

According to Radio Cairo, Abdel Meguid and Refaat discussed Kuwait-Egyptian relations and ways of consolidating them.

Sheikh Saad is due to meet with President Mubarak on Monday afternoon following his arrival.

It was announced that the talks will start on Tuesday headed by Sheikh Saad and Egyptian Premier Dr. Atef Sedki.

It was also announced that Sheikh Saad will meet with the Arab ambassadors in Cairo on Wednesday and will hold a dinner banquet on Thursday for Kuwaiti students studying in Egypt.

Speaking on the Palestinian problem, he said, the Egyptian leadership moves in accordance with its national obligations and that the Palestinians are the only side responsible of their cause and Egypt cannot determine their future.

He disclosed that Yasser Arafat, Egypt within the next few days for further consultations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Abdul Razzak Al Kandari has emphasised that the wise policy followed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak towards Arab and international issues is being appreciated by Kuwaiti officials, topped by His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier.

In an interview with the Egyptian Middle East News Agency (Mena), the ambassador hailed relations between the leaders and peoples of Kuwait and Egypt which he said are characterised by "clear vision and target in service of the aspirations of both peoples."

Kandari said Sheikh Saad will discuss during his visit to Cairo ways of consolidating bilateral relations and will follow up the positive results of the visit to Egypt by His Highness the Amir last August.

The ambassador further said that a delegation representing different official sectors in Kuwait and representatives of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development would accompany Sheikh Saad during his Cairo visit.

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Sheikh Khalifa, President Benjedid back Palestinian uprising Qatar, Algeria stress on Gulf peace

NICOSIA, Jan 7. (Agencies): Algeria and Qatar called today for a lasting peace agreement between Iran and Iraq, saying the current deadlock could harm all Gulf states.

"Continuation of this negative situation will harm the interests of ... Iraq and Iran and the region," said a joint statement at the end of a three-day visit to Algeria by Qatar's Amir, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani.

A United Nations-sponsored ceasefire halted the eight-year Gulf war in August 1988 but talks on a peace accord have stalled.

The statement, quoted by the Qatari News Agency, expressed support for the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-held territories and Palestinian demands for self-determination, including their own state.

It described Israeli tactics in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as inhuman and urged the world to stop troops violating international norms.

They emphasised the persistent need to realise a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian cause.

Algeria and Qatar voiced their backing of the Lebanese legitimacy and expressed their conviction that unity of all Lebanese ranks is the sole way towards resolving the country's dilemma.

In this respect, the two Arab states appreciated efforts exerted by the three-man Arab committee on seeking the suitable solution for the Lebanese problem.

They also reiterated their support for UN endeavours aimed at settling the Iraq-Iran conflict and that in the Western Sahara.

The two sides affirmed their keenness toward strengthening bilateral relations.

Both countries also agreed to set up a joint economic, scientific and technical commission to boost co-operation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed last night by Qatari Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Atyah and Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sid Ahmed Ghazali.

After signing the agreement, the Qatari top diplomat said that it will open new spheres of bilateral co-operation between the two Arab countries.

Meanwhile, Ghazali hoped that the two countries would reach other agreements in the future in the fields of oil, gas and joint investments.

Under the five-year agreement a joint Qatari-Algerian commission will be established that will meet once annually in each country and will be renewed automatically.

On the other hand, the two countries signed another agreement for information co-operation to boost brotherly ties and unity between them.

The agreement was signed by Qatari Minister of Information and Culture Sheikh Hamad Bin Suhaim Al Thani and

Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sid Ahmed Ghazali.

Sheikh Khalifa, accompanied by a high ranking delegation grouping Minister of Trade and Economy Sheikh Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Culture and Information Sheikh Hamad Bin Suhaim Al Thani, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Atyah and Minister of Amir Diwan Affairs Dr. Ghanim Al Kawi, arrived here Thursday from Egypt on a four-day visit at the invitation of Algerian President Benjedid.

Sheikh Khalifa left today, concluding his official four-day visit to Algeria.

Sheikh Khalifa, who arrived here last Thursday, had held intensive talks with President Benjedid and other Algerian officials on the situation in the Arabian Gulf and efforts aimed at realising peace between Iraq and Iran.

The Qatari Amir also discussed efforts of the three-man Arab committee, entrusted with ending the Lebanese crisis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GCC meeting

RIYADH, Jan 7. (Kuna): A committee charged with the follow up and arrangements for the coming meeting of Gulf Co-operation Council and the European Economic Community industrialists in Grenade, Spain, on Feb 19 to 22, held its second meeting at the GCC headquarters today.

The committee discussed arrangements for the meeting and revised the meeting programme which includes a number of specialised working sessions for reviewing issues of concern to industrialists in the two groups, the working papers to be presented and names of candidates.

Baba visit
RIYADH, Jan 7. (Kuna): Mauritania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation Sheikh Ahmed Ould Baba arrived on an official visit to Saudi Arabia.

The Mauritanian official will hold talks with senior Saudi officials on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interests.

Prince Sultan
RIYADH, Jan 7. (Kuna): Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul-Aziz returned home late Saturday from Iraq, concluding a two-day official visit.

Saudi News Agency said that Prince Sultan, during his visit to Iraq, met with King Hussein of Jordan and exchanged cordial talks.

KD 100 fine
A CATTLE ranch owner was fined KD100 for causing the death of a worker through negligence. The court was told that a 30-year-old worker employed at the defendant's ranch was attacked and killed by a bull.

The court was further told that the victim has previously informed the owner to get rid of the animal claiming that it was extremely dangerous.

Turkish-Bulgarian dialogue tomorrow

Sheikh Sabah to chair second round of mediation

By Fatima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE Turkish-Bulgarian talks in Kuwait are expected to pave the way for a continuing dialogue between the two countries to resolve the problem of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, according to diplomatic sources.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz and his Bulgarian counterpart Boiko Dimitrov will on Tuesday (Jan 9) hold a one-day meeting in Kuwait, the second round of talks since mediation efforts launched by HH the Amir last year.

The talks will be held under the patronage of Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

The first round of talks, held on Oct 30, 1989, showed promising results and it was decided that another meeting would be held to further efforts to resolve the conflict arising from the suppression of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria.

The recent changes in Bulgaria have shown encouraging results, particularly the recent government decision to lift restrictions on ethnic Turks. Despite widespread protests ethnic Turks were granted the freedom to retain Muslim names, use their language and practise their religion.

Turkey considers this as a positive and constructive step on the eve of the Jan 9 talks, diplomatic sources said.

However, Turkey seems rather uncomfortable about the recent majority Slavic protests over ethnic Turks' rights granted by the Bulgarian government and views this as a provocation and an obstacle in the way of normalising ties with the Bulgarian government. "The Turks want Bulgaria to confirm their willingness (to fulfil) their legal and moral obligation for ethnic Turks in Bulgaria," explained one diplomat.

Turkey also wants to regulate the flow of ethnic Turks between Bulgaria and Turkey. Nearly

300,000 ethnic Turks fled Bulgaria last year, and in recent months some have returned.

Bulgaria, which in recent weeks has admitted the excesses committed by former Zhivkov government, has shown a willingness to make amends.

Under the former regime, ethnic Turks were forced to change their Muslim names as part of efforts to assimilate them in the communist society, resulting in strained relations between Turkey and Bulgaria.

Political and social groups in Bulgaria now feel that the "freedom of basic human rights cannot be a privilege of only one part of the nation ... the people did not and will not tolerate any form of separatism." They also called for "national reconciliation and consent."

In view of the changing political climate in Bulgaria, diplomats expressed hopes of a positive outcome at the Kuwait talks.

A joint-communique, issued at the end of the Oct 30 meeting, said the "two sides" explored whether the necessary ground and political will exists to initiate a dialogue for normalisation of Turkish-Bulgarian relations.

The second meeting in Kuwait is expected to be a "valuable opportunity to begin a dialogue through which (Turkey and Bulgaria) are able to take up all existing problems (and adopt) a positive approach to solve them satisfactorily," sources said.

Diplomats from both countries have praised Kuwait's initiative as chairman of the OIC. They said Sheikh Sabah has played an important role in the mediation efforts. HH the Amir last year sent OIC secretary general Hamid Al Ghabidi, and a Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry official to Ankara and Sofia to defuse the crisis.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz will pay a one-day official visit to Bahrain on Wednesday, enroute to Turkey from Kuwait.

Riyadh, Moscow contacts existed

Soviet expert hints

TOP Middle East expert in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Poliakov, yesterday sidestepped the issue of possible establishment of diplomatic relations with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

However, Poliakov commended the nature of contacts with the Saudi government, saying a "political dialogue" exists between Moscow and Riyadh while visits of officials back and forth between the two capitals are uninterrupted.

"I have visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia last year as an official representative for my country and delivered a message to the Crown Prince," said the Soviet expert in an interview published in a local Arabic daily.

"Personal contacts have been made between the Soviet and Saudi foreign ministers ... We always inform the Saudi side of our stances through our ambassadors in London and Washington and other places," asserted Poliakov who is the director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Asked if there were efforts to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Soviet official did not answer the question directly but said that the Soviet Union has repeatedly stated that it was ready to exchange diplomatic representation with Saudi Arabia.

On another issue, Poliakov said that the Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement might open new channels for pushing forward the Middle East peace process.

"With the Syrian-Egyptian reconciliation, it is possible that new horizons are feasible on a better co-ordination among Arab concerned parties that could lead to holding the proposed (international) conference" for peace in the region, he asserted.

"We see that it is a must to utilise the present circumstances to begin the process of international conference ... If we do not exploit these circumstances, the situation in the Middle East will develop in an unexpected form," Poliakov cautioned.

He urged the Arabs to intensify their efforts in search of stability in the area and warned that "continuation of this conflict leads to increased tension in the Middle East coupled with a military buildup."

Mahmud praises Kuwaiti stand

BANGLADESH'S Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud arrived yesterday on three-day official visit, at the invitation of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, who greeted him at the airport.

Upon arrival, Mahmud praised the relations between Kuwait and Bangladesh.

In an exclusive statement to Kuna, Mahmud recollected with much appreciation Kuwait's role in getting Bangladesh into the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in 1974 and help accorded by Kuwait at that time and afterwards.

He added that all Bangladeshis highly value Kuwait's stand towards their country and appreciate Kuwaiti aid to Bangladesh.

Mahmud said that during his visit he will hold talks with Sheikh Sabah and other ministers, which will focus on direct Kuwaiti investments in Bangladesh and further strengthening of bilateral relations.

The Bangladesh foreign minister will have an audience with HH the Amir, who will be handing a message from President Hussein Muhammad Ershad. Later, he will have official talks with Sheikh Sabah and Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed.

Mahmud will hold meetings with Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed and Finance Minister Jassim Mohammed Al Khorafi.

Besides Sheikh Sabah, Mahmud was received at the airport by Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen, head of the protocol department Ahmed Al Ayoub, the ambassadors of the two countries and other ranking ministry officials.

Guinea meeting
CHAIRMAN of Kuwait Chamber of Trade and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saqr received at his office the Governor of the Central Bank of Guinea Kirfala Yanasani.

Moves to get water from Iraq

ASSISTANT Undersecretary for Water Network affairs at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Saoud Abdul Aziz Al Naser announced that moves are under way to invite consultants for the implementation of the first stage of the agricultural water supply to Kuwait from Iraq project.

He said that the project will provide Kuwait with 200 million gallons of water daily.

The discussions with the Iraqi side will continue to complete the technical studies for the rest of the project stages, he said.

He disclosed that the average daily individual consumption of water in Kuwait amount to 55 gallons which is considered high in comparison with water consumption rates in advanced countries.

Kuwait has 34-54 million cubic metres of consumable underground water, he told.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Electricity and Water did not yet discover any other new underground water resources.

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Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani pictured with a model of an Emirates Airbus A310.

Emirates backs top Arab pilot in world's longest air race

DUBAI, Jan 7: Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani, the only Arab pilot to fly single-handed around the world, is to team up with Emirates to compete in the longest air race in aviation history.

Flying Dubai Victory, a Cessna 310 sponsored by the international airline of the UAE, the 30-year-old Qatari joins a big line-up of competitors in the Paris-Langkawi-Paris International Air Race next month.

Stamina test
Starting from Paris on Feb 5, the race follows a 25,000-km route which reaches its halfway point at Langkawi in Malaysia, after which there will be a five-day break for Asian Aerospace '90, Singapore's prestigious air show. The race is scheduled to

finish in Paris on Feb 28.

It will provide another severe test of stamina and concentration for Sheikh Hamad, whose round-the-world flight began from Daytona Beach in the USA on Dec 20, 1985, and ended triumphantly back in Florida 40 days later. On the way he set 16 world speed records over recognised courses.

Excited
"This will be the most demanding air race I have ever contested and I am extremely grateful for the support of Emirates," said the 30-year-old former airline pilot. "I am very excited."

Emirates chairman His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum

said: "Sheikh Hamad is a highly-experienced pilot with many fine achievements to his credit in aviation. We are delighted to support his latest venture."

Aircraft
Sharing the flying with Sheikh Hamad, who has substantial race experience in the US, the Bahamas, Europe and Asia, will be Saudi Arabian co-pilot Mohammed Al Amir. The third member of the crew, British journalist Jim Gilchrist, will make regular reports on their progress.

While turbo-prop aircraft make up one race category, Dubai Victory - entered in the category for piston-driven engines - is in a class for non-pressurised aircraft. Like all Emirates aircraft, its tail will be decorated by the colours of the

UAE national flag.

The race, sponsored by the Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysia and Banque Indosuez, offers cash prizes worth \$80,000. Mandatory stops are at Bahrain and Dhaka on the outward journey and New Delhi, Dubai and Amman on the return leg. In between, the pilots will make a number of additional landings for re-fuelling, and these could hold the key to success.

"There are two other aircraft similar to mine in the race and I will need a one-minute edge over them," said Sheikh Hamad. "The re-fuelling stops are going to be so important. Speed will be essential and we are planning every stop very carefully."

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NEVER forget what a man says to you when he is angry —
H.W. Beecher, U.S. clergyman (1813-1887).

OPINION

Amir displays great foresight

SHEIKH Jaber Al Ahmed's sayings are promises that find their way to implementation. What our Amir says he does.

In his sayings and deeds we do not find integrity only, but the meaning of the philosophy of change and adapting to the future with pragmatic responses to the inherent challenges.

This is the nature of Jaber Al Ahmed. He always looks to the future, calculates precisely and thus is always prepared for the days ahead and their expected developments. This is his style of tackling issues motivated by his great responsibilities towards the nation he leads.

On this basis, we cannot restrict our evaluation of the increase in employees' salaries as a moral or generous measure — though, both are characters of Sheikh Jaber. We evaluate it in terms of the promise he gave when he said: "Kuwait and all its activities are moving into the decade of the 90s."

This translates into all aspects of life — social, economic, political and others. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, by this well designed transfer is certainly advancing any future development.

If the talk now is on the big changes sweeping the world, including the popular revolts seeking freedom and participation in national activity, Sheikh Jaber's far-sightedness and his measures to provide the requirements for the future based upon accurate calculations and predictions has certainly surpassed and advanced those developments and events.

Having been fortunate in having such a socio-political leadership, we can be confident of our present and future. We can be proud that we are pioneers in the developing human aspects, pioneers in firmly believing in freedom and democracy.

The councils of democracy are open since a long time and there are no closed doors between the big and small and no opinion is prevented from reaching the officials and no voices are suppressed while saying that is right and all calls for serving the homeland are welcome.

We understand the recent Amir's grant — which is not the last in preparing the country for the decade of the 90s. It is but another step for building Kuwait and its society and consolidating its construction and that of the whole society by putting it firmly on the road to a bright and prosperous future.

We firmly believe in Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed's promise of a new life in this last decade of this century — in all aspects economic, social and political.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Ilescu capable of ending despair

IASI, Romania, (AP): To residents of this city on the Soviet border, Romania's new leader is nothing less than a Superman capable of ending their country's quarter-century of despair.

Ion Ilescu was already being demoted because of disputes over Nicolae Ceausescu's policies when he was sent to Iasi to be Communist Party chief in 1974-1976.

But 13 years after he was further demoted from that job, he emerged as leader of the revolution that toppled and executed Ceausescu. Through a filter of suffering and revolution, the people of Iasi see in Ilescu not only a talented economist, but a man who cares about people and culture.

"He was the only local party secretary who didn't treat Ceausescu like a king," said Adi Crista, a poet and member of the National Salvation Front Committee that overthrew the city of 300,000 people from the former Communist Party headquarters.

Liberty

I think Ilescu will restore liberty and the possibility to say anything you think," said Pavel Zaharia, who waited on Ilescu's table 15 years ago and now manages the Moldova Hotel across the street from party headquarters.

There is praise as well from those on the Soviet side of the border who worked with Ilescu.

Mikhail Platon, a deputy premier of the Soviet Republic of Moldavia across the Prut River, was a local party official in the border region when Ilescu was in charge in Iasi.

Amoog Soviets, Platon said in an interview, Ilescu had a reputation as "an energetic, business-like, thoughtful and progressive person."

As a hydrologist, he concentrated on land improvements in an area where a lack of rainfall inhibits otherwise favourable growing conditions, Platon said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1499 — France's King Louis XII marries Anne, Duchess of Brittany.

1598 — Joachim Frederick succeeds as elector of Brandenburg on death of John George.

1679 — French explorer La Salle reaches Niagara Falls.

1806 — Britain finally occupies Cape of Good Hope.

1815 — Battle of New Orleans, in which Americans defeat British within half an hour in final engagement of war of 1812.

1915 — Heavy fighting breaks out in areas of Assef Canal in Belgium and Soissons, France, in World War I.

1923 — France begins military occupation of Ruhr valley in Germany.

1926 — Ibn Saud becomes King of Hejaz on King Hussein's expulsion and changes name of kingdom to Saudi Arabia.

1953 — Riots break out in Karachi, Pakistan.

1954 — Commonwealth finance ministers open meeting at Sydney, Australia.

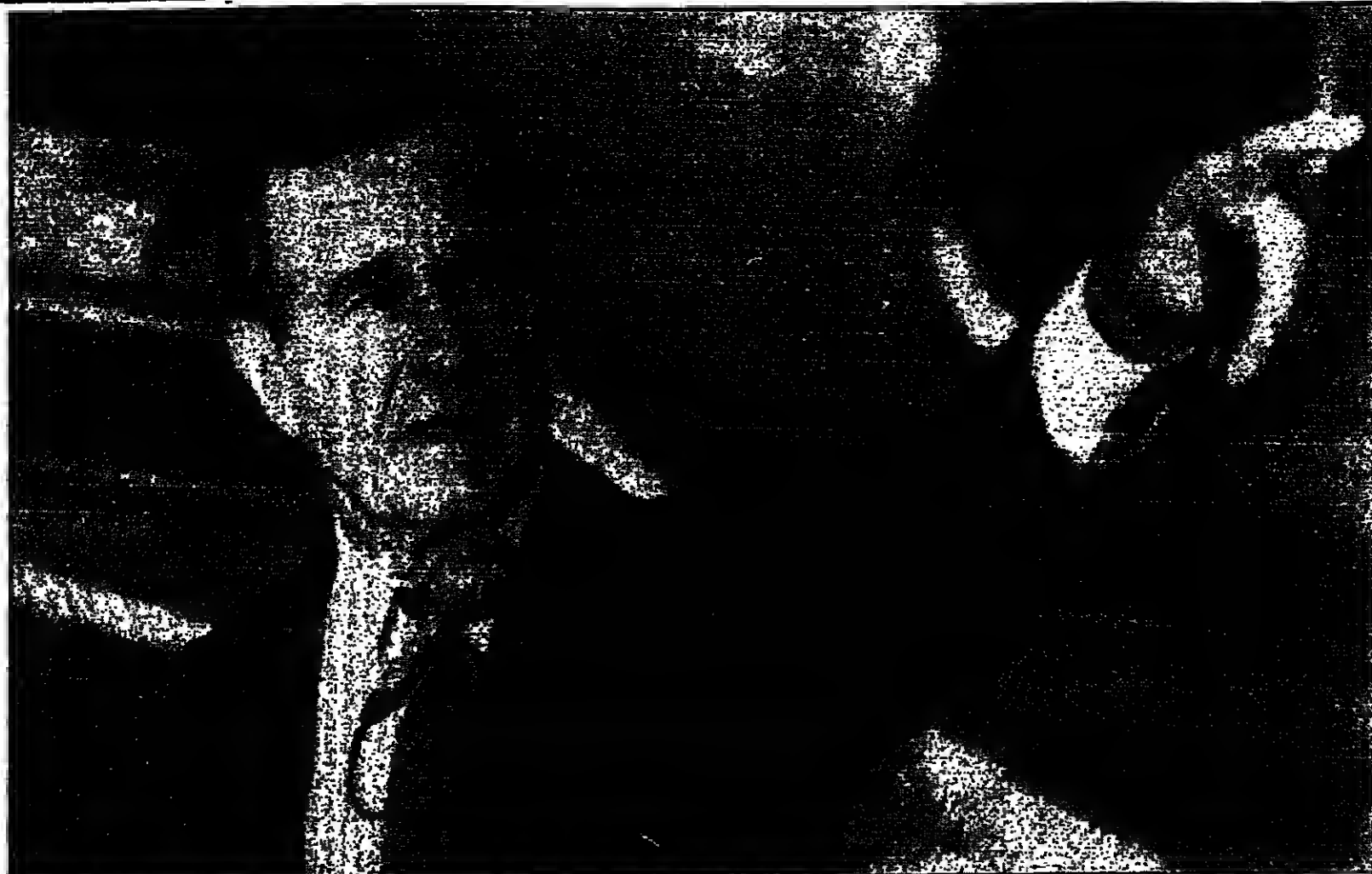
1958 — Soviet Marshal Bulganin again proposes summit conference on world problems.

1963 — Outer Mongolia defies China and gives unqualified support to Soviet Union in ideological dispute dividing the two communist nations.

1972 — Bangladesh leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman arrives in London after being released by Pakistan, and he appeals for recognition of his new nation.

1974 — Communist-led insurgents in Cambodia intensify pressure on Phnom Penh with strikes north and south of the capital.

1989 — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev says Kremlin is besieged by financial problems that are sapping his reforms.



President George Bush: fending off charges of timidity

US military operation in Panama a success

'Bush's 'wimp' image destroyed

WASHINGTON, (AP): President George Bush, who a few months back was fending off charges of timidity, is reaping foreign policy and political gains at home from the success of the US military operation in Panama.

"Bush just knocked one out of the park," ooe political analyst said. "The 'W' (wimp) word will not be heard again," said another.

The US intervention in Panama and subsequent surrender of dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega to US forces is allowing Bush to bask in praise from leaders of both parties — something rare for a president a full year into his term.

Bush's gamble may have left him in the strongest position yet since he took office as he awaits the return of Congress on Jan 23 with his popularity soaring in public opinion polls.

And, while analysts and political leaders differed on the long-range payoff, few disputed the short-term value to Bush and his Republican Party — particularly in this congressional election year.

"The president goes into this session of Congress with enormous credibility, whether on defence spending or domestic policy," said Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

And no harsher a critic than Sen Edward Kennedy proclaimed the surrender of Noriega "a triumph for diplomacy and a triumph for justice."

At a news conference on Friday, Bush dismissed an assertion by Lee Atwater, chairman of the Republican National Committee, that the Panamanian venture was a "political jackpot."

"A president's called on to take certain actions. We're not going in to try to furnish a political image; that's ridiculous," Bush said.

But Leslie Goodman, a spokeswoman for the party committee, said Atwater's "basic point was that anytime an American president does what he says he's going to do, the public approves wildly. That's what happened with Panama. And that's the political jackpot."

Most analysts seemed to agree.

"In international terms, he reminded the rest of the world that they can't take him for granted," said Stephen Hess, a political analyst who specializes in the presidency at the Brookings Institution, a generally liberal research organization.

Mitch Daniels, political director under former President Ronald Reagan and now a scholar at the conservative Hudson Institute, said Bush's success in bringing Noriega to justice "can't be overstated."

"There are defining events that tend to be remembered after the event itself has been forgotten. This was clearly a complex operation and the president clearly was personally directing events. And it worked, Daniels said.

Although Bush has not been called a "wimp" since early on in his presidential campaign, Democratic critics, including Senate leader George Mitchell, were accusing him of timidity in foreign policy as recently as a few months ago.

Bush was attacked for failing to stand up to the Chinese government in the aftermath of the bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown; for reacting too slowly in promising aid for Poland and other emerging new democracies of Eastern Europe; and for failing to seize the moment during an abortive coup attempt against Noriega last October.

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): East Germany's Communist Party is far from beaten and even seems to be strengthening its grip on power after being brought to its knees in last year's popular uprising, say politicians on both sides of the Berlin Wall.

The party still dominates the government, runs the economy and controls most of the media, prompting fears that it could scrap its pledges for democratic change any day.

"1989 was the year of peaceful revolution in East Germany, but one should delude themselves that the struggle for freedom has already been won. It has only just begun," said Oskar Lafontaine, deputy West German Social Democrat leader.

Leading opposition activist Rolf Henrich has even suggested the communists might use force to reassert their full authority, turning free elections planned for May into a farce.

But for a party that three months ago penned the people behind barbed wire and concrete and kept watch on them with a web of secret police, the communists are remarkably popular.

According to opinion polls commissioned on both sides of the Berlin Wall, they command between a quarter and a third of the vote, well ahead of any other political force.

"I believe the polls," said Konrad Weiss, leader of the opposition party Democracy Now. "But much of it has to do with the fact that democratic parties are given no basic facilities to fight the communists' well-oiled political machine."

Responding to pressure from the highly fragmented opposition and from West German leaders, the

Noriega now fights legal war

NEW YORK, (Reuters):

Here's a ploy for Manuel Antonio Noriega to go free:

prove that your country was invaded, you were kidnapped, brought to a country where you are hated to be tried illegally on charges made by common criminals out to cut a deal.

Some US lawyers think that under this interpretation of the Panamanian military leader's downfall, he may beat the rap — that is if he can find 12 jurors who have never heard of him, Panama or cocaine.

They say that if Noriega wins his unprecedented legal battle, he will achieve in the law courts what he failed to do on the battlefield — triumph over the United States.

Even though these lawyers are in a decided minority, many legal experts say the case against Noriega is fraught with danger for President George Bush's government which invaded Panama on Dec 20 to overthrow him and bring him to a US court to be tried on drug trafficking charges.

Noriega is accused of letting the Medellín cocaine cartel use his country as a transshipment point for tons of cocaine en route to the United States and then letting the cartel launder millions of dollars in profits in Panamanian banks.

The experts say the US government will have to prove in the courts that Noriega was not grabbed illegally, that its evidence against him is not tainted and that, despite Bush calling him a "king" and the US Defence Department describing him as a "wily rat," he can receive a fair trial.

They also say that giving

the former strongman "due

process of law" is going to

prove a long, hard process, especially when it comes to

convincing the government to free classified documents about his dealings as an asset of the Central Intelligence Agency at \$200,000 a year.

Oddly enough, many experts say the government should have no problem with the argument that Noriega was kidnapped.

"Under US law, even if you kidnap someone, as long as he is physically before the court, you can try him," said Sam Dash, counsel to the Senate Watergate hearings. "The position is: We don't care how he got there. I'm sure the defence will appeal but they'll lose all the way to the Supreme Court."

But the government may have a problem using the evidence it found against Noriega in his headquarters, including his records and stacks of cocaine, because of the constitution's prohibitions against illegal searches, says Colleen O'Connor, spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The government may also have trouble with its witnesses against Noriega — drug dealers who are testifying against him in the hopes of securing better deals for themselves.

One legal expert, Paul Kahn of Yale University, said that given all the problems in the case, he would not be surprised if the US government made a deal with Noriega.

Another expert, who asked not to be identified, said, "the US may rue the day when it brought this case."

William Kunstler, the dean of America's "radical" attorneys, goes a step further. He

says the United States wanted

to kill Noriega and having

failed at that are now stuck with him and a mess of

illegals in trying him.

"This has never happened before in modern history — one country invades another to arrest its leader. Can you imagine the Philippines Army attacking Hawaii to get Marcos back or Iran invading New York to grab the Shah. Can you imagine how we would have reacted that?" said Kunstler.

Kunstler added, "the army really went there to murder him and now the Bush administration is stuck. Can he get a fair trial? No. He may be the worst person in the world but the publicity has been so intense he can't get a fair trial."

But lawyers say fair juries were found for the trial of former White House aide Oliver North in the Iran-Contra case and for the trial of David Hinckley, the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981.

Dash says he anticipates that one tricky issue will be the defence's demand for classified documents on Noriega's relationship with the CIA in the early 1980s on matters of military intelligence.

"The defence will call upon the CIA and security forces to produce information that they say is needed to allow Noriega to properly defend himself. The government then has a choice. It can't prosecute him on the one hand, and preserve national security information on the other," said Dash.

He added, "The President has stuck his neck out so far. I think they'll turn over everything that's requested."

"Over the long run, in retrospect, it would have been much better to have intervened in that indigenous coup, rather than to handle it this way," said Norman Ornstein of the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

"We would have been abetting rather than initiating and carrying out," Ornstein said. "And we would have been less responsible for Panama. Now, Panamanians are going to look with some justification to us to bail them out."

East German communists still strong

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): East Germany's Communist Party is far from beaten and even seems to be strengthening its grip on power after being brought to its knees in last year's popular uprising, say politicians on both sides of the Berlin Wall.

The party still dominates the government, runs the economy and controls most of the media, prompting fears that it could scrap its pledges for democratic change any day.

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"I believe the polls," said Konrad Weiss, leader of the opposition party Democracy Now. "But much of it has to do with the fact that democratic parties are given no basic facilities to fight the communists' well-oiled political machine."

Responding to pressure from the highly fragmented opposition and from West German leaders, the

communists have promised to provide office space in central East Berlin for a six-party Democratic Alliance formed last week.

"We'll have to see if they keep their word," Weiss said. "But the fact remains the party is too powerful. It still runs the media and state companies. That's how it was in the past and that's how it is now."

In many respects the party, like the country, has changed beyond recognition since its Stalinist leader Erich Honecker fell last October.

It has breached the Berlin Wall, allowed other parties to share power, agreed to free elections, dismantled the hated Stasi secret police, denounced the old Stalinist leaders and put many of them behind bars.

Its membership has fallen from 2.2 million to 1.4 million and it has dismissed large numbers of workers to save money.

But politicians say the communists are still enormously strong and that many of the reforms are not as wide-reaching as they seem.

The East German media delights in revealing the latest detail of corruption or misrule in the old order but criticism of the new party leaders can scarcely be found.

"For a few weeks the papers were more open, but now they are back to printing communist propaganda again," one East German journalist said.

The main topic in the news is not the country's creaking economy, nor its precarious politics, but an alleged rise in neo-fascism that the government calls a major security threat.

Many opposition groups see the massive media attention given to a few badly investigated incidents as a Communist Party ploy to spread fear of change, and as an excuse to revive the Stasi secret police which propped up the Honecker regime.

Henrich and his group New Forum are suspicious of government assurances that the old secret police has no access to weapons. They fear the communists might set up a similar security force to intimidate voters in the May 6 elections.

Weiss of democracy now is worried not only by a resurgence of the Stasi but also by old hardliners who he said still hold several posts high in government, the media and industry.

"I don't think the new leaders such as (party chief Gregor) Gysi are responsible for the neo-Nazi scare tactics. It is the old apparatus which still controls the middle ranks," he said.

Weiss and others believe it is vital to push the communists into opposition in the elections if East Germany is to become a democracy.

"I think the party can really change and that it is in the interests of the country for it to do so. But this is only possible if it is no longer in government," Weiss said.

East German author Lutz Rathenow said any economic rapprochement between West Germany and a communist-led East Germany would make corruption endemic to the political system.

"We would become the Sicily of a united Germany. And the party would play the role of the mafia, controlling all income and outgoings and taking a cut for itself."

Art Buchwald

Moles are no longer needed

THE old men from the intelligence agencies drifted in to the Cafe Mozart in East Berlin. They were all there — Smiley from MI-5, Rostov from the KGB, Fouquet from the French Surete, and Woodhouse from the CIA, among others.

Smiley ordered a cup of tea. "Does anyone know who'd like to buy the plans for the Warsaw Pact defence of the northern corridor?" he asked.

"Forget it, Smiley," Rostov told him. "There's no market for defence secrets any more. The Cold War is over and Moscow is giving away Warsaw Pact plans, not buying them."

Woodhouse said, "I know a Czech mole in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet if anyone is interested."

Smiley shook his head. "No one cares about moles in London. They're a dime a dozen, and what damage can they do now? Let's face it, men, we are no longer essential. The cloak and dagger days are over."

"That's the way it is whenever the Cold War melts down. As soon as the war starts, it's Ivan this and Ivan that, but when the killing stops, they tell you to shove your stolen blueprints in your shoes and go home," Rostov said.

An East German Secret Service man named Kraut joined in the conversation. "I was in the department for 30 years. I caught more traitors trying to climb over the Berlin Wall than any other government official. Now I am going to lose my pension because there is no wall. I ask you, gentlemen, is that fair?"

"Oh, shut up, Kraut," yelled Fouquet. "You were a butcher not a spy."

"What's the difference?" Kraut wanted to know.

Smiley said, "It's too late to cry over spilt milk. We're all in the prime of our careers. Surely someone has a use for us in these terrible times of perestroika and glasnost."

Woodhouse answered, "I doubt it. Every country that has declared independence wants to trade military secrets for bread and cheese. I was offered the complete plans for a brand-new Soviet submarine the other day, and Washington wouldn't let me buy them. Apparently the CIA had used up its entire espionage budget on tickets to the Moscow Ballet."

Fouquet added, "The worst aspect of all this is that beautiful foreign women are no longer attracted to us."

"I noticed that," Rostov said. "Women used to find us glamorous, but now they're much more taken with Eastern bloc economists."

Woodhouse began to reminisce. "I had a girl in Leipzig, and I told her that I'd come back for her when I rescued her boyfriend, East Germany's greatest mathematician. I heard from her the other day. She and the mathematician are going to open an H&R Block office in Leipzig. She was sorry but they didn't need me anymore."

Smiley was sucking on the lemon from his tea. "There is no reason to go home. If I tell people that I was a spy for MI-5, they just laugh at me and say, 'That was dumb!'"

"It's the same with the Americans," Woodhouse said. "Nobody wants a Cold War warrior when the saber-rattling has stopped. I think I'll stay in East Berlin and operate a radar trap for people driving over 55 miles an hour on the autobahn."

Fouquet concluded, "There's just not much for me to do. Maybe I could work for an Eastern bloc credit company. If there is going to be peace, there has to be credit card fraud."

Smiley was called to the phone. He came back, white-faced. "It was John Le Carré. He told me that he was going to drop me from his next book. Spies who come in from the cold aren't selling anymore."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Quote me

"Let us not look back to a troubled past but rather let us responsibly face the future. Together let Panamanians and Americans build new relations on a basis of mutual respect and enduring friendship. Hinton said on his arrival. In conclusion, let me stress that Panamanians and Americans must henceforth co-operate to prepare for the day less than ten years away for (Panamanian) operation of the Panama Canal." — New US ambassador to Panama.

"I want to tell you: I'm not Noriega's adviser and have not been in the past. I'm not No. 1 or No. 2. Noriega is not my partner. I have not been in charge of his business affairs, I have not been in charge or instructed his forces, I have not organised his personal security. I'm just a private man who deals in trade." — Mike Harari alleged Noriega's security adviser.

"The pace of change in East Europe, the expectations of the peoples concerned and of their governments as well as the community's own interests in the political and economic future of Europe now require the community to take further initiatives." The EEC on the need to aid East Europe.

"I was not hiding and was not imprisoned by the Americans on any occasion. I was in Panama when the war started and I avoided it without any help, by my own means...and as you can see I'm here, in my country, at home, among my family and friends." — Mike Harari on his alleged capture during the US invasion of Panama.

"There is no place for capitalism, which is dictatorship based on exploitation of basic human rights which are completely crushed in Western Europe and the United States. If you (Eastern Europe) transfer (adopt) Western European system with its multi-parties and capitalism, I warn you of unemployment and beggars, of inflation, crises and in the end war." — Col Muammar Khaddafi on development in E. Europe.

"We are not interested in the European siege. The companies working here need Libyan money, they need Libyan oil. We put our conditions, not they, if they don't like them, they can go to hell." — Col Khaddafi on Western economic sanctions against Libya.

"If the TV cameras had been more objective they would have filmed the many toys and bags of food we kept in the garage that were going to the needy." — Noriega's wife to a newspaper.

German unity and the unity of Europe must be striven for together. Germany is our fatherland, Europe our future." — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Germans.

"For this, as a man who opposed the Ceausescu regime, I think that the unity of Romanians is the only guarantee of a free Romania." — Mircea Radeanu proposing unity as the only way for Romanians.

Lebanese to face acute hardship

Middle class disappeared; rich stay very rich

BEIRUT, Jan 7, (Reuters): In the nightclubs and chic restaurants of Kaslik, you'd never know there was a war on.

After 14 years of civil strife in Lebanon, a surprising number of people in the country's Christian enclave still find the money to enjoy a night out in style.

But glossy magazines advertising watches, jewellery or scotch whisky cater for the conspicuous consumption of a minority. The majority will face a new year of increasing deprivation or acute hardship, charity workers say.

"Before, there was a large middle class," said Maurice Abu Jaoudé, a voluntary worker at the Catholic Centre for Information.

"That class has almost disappeared, by emigration or by joining the ranks of the poor. The very rich stayed very rich."

Abu Jaoudé and Father Antoine Gemayel, director of the centre which coordinates church charity work, say the lifestyle of an affluent few is misleading.

An acute economic crisis exacerbated by the war has caused the average Lebanese on both sides of the Green Line dividing Beirut severe hardship, they say.

The minimum wage has just been raised to 35,000 Lebanese pounds (\$67) a month. An average unskilled worker can expect to earn around 55,000 pounds (\$105).

All government schools in Christian East Beirut are full and a place at a private

school costs around \$400 a year, Father Gemayel says. Many schools were hit in the six-month artillery war last year, reducing places still further.

The Roman Catholic charity Caritas, which operates throughout Lebanon, and other charities, help with fees. Parents also make great sacrifices to educate their children.

"They sell land, they do the impossible, to send their kids to school," Father Gemayel said.

Hospital care can also bankrupt a family. Every hospital in the Christian enclave and most in Muslim West Beirut were hit in the shelling.

East Beirut has three free hospitals but

those forced to use private wards can expect to pay \$150 a day without surgery, Father Gemayel says.

Some half a million people have fled to the Christian enclave from other areas during the war, putting acute pressure on housing. Many have ended up in Nabaha, a teeming district of crumbling shell-rocked apartments and potholed roads next to the Beirut river.

Many refugees were agricultural workers without employment skills suitable for city life. Some 60 per cent of all Lebanon's factories were in any case damaged in the shelling war and Father Gemayel estimates unemployment at 22 per cent.



Four Christian protesters ran some 17 kms to the residence of Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente and delivered a message to Pope John Paul asking for his help to release Lebanese jailed in Syria and foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon. At least 8,000 people also formed a human chain to Puente residence in East Beirut to protest against Syria's presence in Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jordanian soldier killed by Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 7, (Reuters): Israeli troops today shot dead an armed Jordanian soldier after several days of sniper fire at the border, the army said.

It said the soldier, armed with an M-16 automatic rifle, was inside Israel.

In a statement, the army said troops searching the frontier along the Yarmouk river separating Israel and Jordan found the soldier near Hamat Gader, beyond the Israeli border fence but on Israeli territory.

"An Israeli Army force detected a Jordanian soldier inside Israeli territory. He was shot and killed. There were no injuries to our forces," the statement said.

Israel reported four incidents last week along the normally quiet border between the two countries, two of them shooting incidents near the border town of Hamat Gader on Thursday and Friday.

"The Israeli Army took several actions to detect where the shots were coming from and during them the Jordanian soldier was detected and shot," the army said.

Egypt commends Iraqi peace move

'United Arab stance' sought

CAIRO, Jan 7, (AP): Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid today commended Iraq's proposal for reviving stalled peace talks with Iran and called on Arab leaders to form a "United Arab stance" against the Persian state's refusal of the plan.

Abdel-Meguid told reporters that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's offer reflected his country's wish for a peaceful end to the Iran-Iraq conflict.

His comments were carried by the Middle East news agency.

"The peace initiative that President Saddam Hussein has announced reflects Iraq's peaceful attitude and its concern to establish a comprehensive peace," Abdel-Meguid said.

"The initiative that President Saddam Hussein has announced reflects Iraq's peaceful attitude and its concern to establish a comprehensive peace," Abdel-Meguid said.

"The initiative is a step which deserves commitment from all sides and we call on Iran to accept it. And Arab leaders should study the Iranian position in the case of its rejection of the initiative to create a United Arab stance against it," Abdel-Meguid added.

The Egyptian foreign minister did not specify what actions Arab leaders should take against the Iranian rejection.

Abdel-Meguid later told Kuwaiti journalists that Egypt was disappointed at Iran's rejection of Saddam's plan.

"The Iranian response came as a disappointment and Iran is held responsible for this rejection," he said.

Iran has dismissed as a "campaign of public deception" Iraq's proposal for a direct dialogue between the two countries leaders to be held alternatively in Baghdad and Tehran under supervision of the United

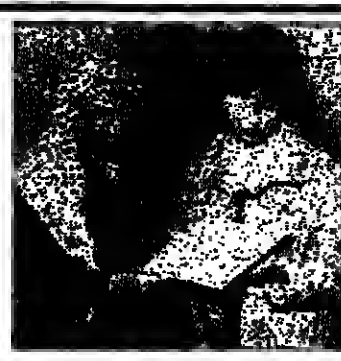
Nations.

On the developments in eastern Europe, Abdel-Meguid told Kuwaiti journalists that the situation called for an Arab summit to improve co-operation between Arab countries.

"The developments in Europe show that the tendency is toward dialogue and not conflict... all parties in the Middle East must understand the necessity to move toward peace," Abdel-Meguid said.

He said a meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States, which had been expected in January, needs preparations which are underway.

"There are contacts going on to pave the way for the meeting between the three foreign ministers. It is premature to set a date for it because it has to be carefully prepared for to ensure its success. We do not want to go to a failure," Abdel-Meguid said.



PLO leader Arafat (left) presents a certificate of honorary Palestinian citizenship to Italian peace activist Maria Merino. Merino was blinded in one eye during a peace march in Jerusalem.

Uprising: two die, travel ban on 9

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 7, (AP): Two 18-year-old Palestinians died today of gunshot wounds after clashes with soldiers, and Israeli authorities banned nine pro-PLO activists from travelling abroad.

Palestinian leaders charged the three-month travel ban imposed by Interior Minister Aryeh Deri was an attempt to disrupt US-backed efforts to arrange a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo.

Those targeted included Sari Nusseibeh and Faisal Husseini, the two most prominent Palestinians involved in behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts.

Husseini complained that Israeli authorities were trying to nominate their own Palestinian representatives for the proposed talks and block any role for the PLO.

"Israel is trying to go back to its old policies, and they are discovering day after day that such actions will not succeed in creating a new local leadership," he said in an interview today.

Also ordered to stay in the country were Nabih businessman Saeed Kanaan, women's activist Zahira Kanaan and a delegation of five Palestinian trade union leaders who were to attend a conference in Egypt, Palestinian sources said.

Nusseibeh was reportedly turned back at the Al-Shayb bridge while en route to Jordan and others had planned trips to Egypt, which has been consulting Palestinians about a list of 10 negotiators to meet with Israel.

Ms Kanaan, who had planned to attend conferences in Cairo and Boston, Massachusetts, said she believed Israel was trying to "exercise a veto" over participants in the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The English-language Jerusalem Post and Hebrew Maariv dailies said the travel bans appeared aimed at disrupting contacts between local Palestinian leaders and Yasser Arafat's PLO in Tunis.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, meanwhile, about 2,000 people attended the funeral of Fadi Zabakli in the Church of the Nativity.

The government appointed Communication Minister Gad Ya'acobi to Israel's decision-making inner cabinet today to replace Ezer Weizman who resigned after he was accused of talking with the PLO.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn arrived in Israel today seeking stronger economic ties, ending a 22-year gap in high-level visits from East European countries.

Shiite fighting PLO deploys more forces

Fears of civil war renewed

SIDON, Lebanon, Jan 7, (UPI): The Palestine Liberation Organisation has increased its "peace-keeping" forces in southern Lebanon to more than 700 members, but rival Shiite Muslim factions clashed there for a 16th consecutive day today, security sources said.

About 300 PLO commandos were deployed from bases around the port city of Sidon, 24 miles south of Beirut, to the region of Tufah farther east of Sidon Thursday and another 400 were dispatched into the embattled area over the weekend, the sources said.

The Palestinian force is entrusted with a peace-keeping role by acting as a buffer between the rival Shiite groups, the Iranian-funded Hezbollah, and the pro-Syrian Amal.

Amal and Hezbollah are contesting for the leadership of Lebanon's estimated 1.5 million Shiites.

Hezbollah advocates an open-ended armed struggle against Israel across southern Lebanon, while Amal wants Israel to relinquish a frontier "security enclave."

Local PLO officials have said the reinforcement of the peace-keeping force was designed to disengage the antagonist Lebanese groups, but pro-Syrian Muslim leaders have accused PLO leader Yasser Arafat of plotting to widen the PLO presence in southern Lebanon.

Witnesses said Arafat's fighters, armed with automatic guns, rocket launchers and mortars, were mauling fortifications and roadblocks in and around damaged villages in the Tufah region.

BEIRUT, Jan 7, (AP): Christian army troops and Syrian-backed Muslim militiamen traded mortar and tank fire across Beirut's dividing Green Line for a second day today, kindling fears of a new round of all-out civil war.

Police said the 45-minute flare-up along Beirut's three-mile (five-kilometres) demarcation line jolted residents of the low-income districts of Sodeco and Ras Al Nabaa out of bed at dawn.

Thousands scurried to basements and bomb shelters as the thunderous blasts of mortar and artillery shells echoed across the city.

Muslim militias entrenched in Ras Al Nabaa accused soldiers of rebellious Christian army officer, Gen. Michel Aoun, of starting the clash.

Green Line fighting yesterday killed two Christian civilians.

Sudan raps Garang visit to Israel

KHARTOUM, Jan 7, (Kuna): A reported visit to Israel by Sudanese rebel leader John Garang has been described as something not strange but one that comes in the context of conspiracies against the Sudan, the Sudan news agency, Suna, reported today.

The agency quoted a source it described as (unformed) as saying that neither the Sudanese people nor the world opinion could be deceived by desperate attempts by Col. Garang to improve his image.

The reported visit is part of a conspiracy aimed at distorting an international image the Sudan has earned after the national salvation revolution, the source said.

The rebel leader, by seeking close relations with Israel, aims, in the short range, at undermining and tarnishing the national dialogue conference resolutions and aims, in the long range, at building a Zionist belt against Arabism and Islam in Africa rendering the continent a prey to racism and Zionism, the source added.

The source wonders whether some elements from northern Sudan, who the source says have accepted to be the pawns for Garang's ambitions against their country and their faith, have visited Israel along with Garang or have failed to do so and thus opted to assume a low grade in the rebel leadership. The source was obviously referring to Dr Mansour Khalid, a notable north Sudanese politician-thinker.



Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand (right) meets Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the United Nations Environmental Programme, in Cairo. The princess is on a seven-day official visit to Egypt. (Reuters wirephoto)

Afghan rebels 'in talks with Soviets'

ISLAMABAD, Jan 7, (AP): A powerful Afghan rebel leader said today that the rebels are holding secret talks with Moscow.

"Negotiations have already started between the mujahedeen (rebels) and the Soviets," said Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the orthodox Hezb-i-Islami rebel group.

The rebel leader declined to say where the talks were being held, or who the participants were. However, he said the rebels were asking the Soviets to stop arming the marxist government in the Afghan capital.

"There are many things to negotiate with the Soviets," Hekmatyar said. "We are asking them to stop aiding Kabul, to stop interfering. We are talking about future relations between our two countries."

He refused to speculate on the possible outcome, but said recent events in eastern Europe "have created a lot of hopes that the Soviets can adopt similar policies in Afghanistan."

That was in reference to Moscow's non-interference in nations that moved in recent months to abandon single-party communist rule.

Soviet embassy officials in Islamabad could not be



Hekmatyar (left) criticises France for deciding to send diplomats back to Kabul during the news conference. Looking on is Afghan defector Col Abdul Aziz. (Reuters wirephoto)

immediately reached for comment.

Western diplomats say Moscow sends about \$300 million worth of munitions and humanitarian aid to Kabul each month. Washington, meanwhile, provides \$500 million worth of military supplies annually to the rebels.

Hekmatyar's group is the only one of the seven major rebel organisations headquartered in Pakistan to urge a mutual arms cutoff.

More than 103,000 Soviet soldiers fought alongside Afghan government troops in a United Nations-brokered agreement providing for their withdrawal.

Arafat, Khaddafi talks

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Sunday held a second round of talks with his Libyan host, Col. Muammar Khaddafi.

Arafat, who arrived in Tripoli last night, held his first round of talks with Khaddafi shortly after arrival. (Kuna)

North Yemen denies: North Yemen denied on Sunday reports by an Israeli newspaper that it would consider allowing Israelis of Yemenite origin to visit relatives in their homeland.

"North Yemen's policy does not allow anyone with Israeli or South African passports to visit Yemen, it also refuses entry to passport holders with Israeli or South African visa stamps," Foreign Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Aryani told Reuters. (Reuters)

Iran-Turkey commission

Turkish Minister of Communications Cengiz Tuncel arrived in Tehran today, heading an economic experts delegation to attend the joint Iranian-Turkish commission on shipping and transportation.

Tuncel will hold talks with Iranian officials on bilateral co-operation in the field of shipping, transportation and communications in 1990, Radio Tehran reported. (Kuna)

Tribal clash probe: The Sudanese government said Sunday that it would form a committee to investigate a clash between Arab and African tribes Dec 28 which it said left 214 persons dead.

A statement issued by the Sudanese Council of Ministers or cabinet said that an unspecified number of Sudanese from the two tribes had been arrested. (AP)

Libya-Chad summit

A Libyan-Chadian summit will soon take place in the Gabonese capital between Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi and Chadian President Housseini Habre, press reports said in Dubai Sunday.

"Al Bayan" newspaper said in a Paris-dated story that the two leaders would try during the summit to iron out differences between their countries on the one hand and between them personally on the other. (Kuna)

Israeli general comments

In a renewed Israeli war of words, high ranking Israeli military official Sunday said that Iraq should learn a lesson from the destruction of its nuclear reactor.

Quoted by Davar newspaper, head of the planning unit in the Israeli Army General Dan Yotum said Israel will not "tolerate an attack on its rare lines or its population." (Kuna)

Iran executes man

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Saturday that an Iranian citizen was executed after being found guilty of spying for Iraq.

Iran, monitored in Niassa, said Tofiq Dabaghbar was also charged by the provincial Islamic revolutionary court with smuggling counterfeit banknotes. (AP)

Azeris, Turkish co-operation

Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said Saturday that prospects were bright for increased co-operation between Turkey and the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan.

Yilmaz made the statement at a luncheon he gave in honour of visiting Azerbaijani Premier Ayaz Nizamiyoghlu Mutalibov. It was carried by the state radio. (AP)

Fahd sends cable

King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia sent a cable of condolences Saturday to Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaque Khan at the death and injury of a number of Pakistanis in a collision of two trains in Sargol, south of Pakistan.

In the cable, reported by Radio Riyadh, King Fahd expressed grief over the train incident, which claimed the lives of some 300 people and injured scores others. (Kuna)

Cairo offers to host

Cairo has offered to host a reconciliation meeting between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation amid signs that the two sides were planning to end more than six years of bitter dispute, Al Ithiha newspaper reported Sunday.

The paper, quoting diplomatic sources in Cairo, said Egypt received assurances from Syria that Damascus was prepared to support any action that would strengthen the Palestinian struggle for freedom and fill the gaps among Arabs. (Kuna)

Horn in Israel

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn (right) and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens hold a brief discussion at Ben Gurion airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Afghans detained

Pakistani police have arrested four Afghan exiles for allegedly firing rockets on the southwestern town of Quetta that injured three policemen, a senior government official said.

Baluchistan province Chief Minister Akbar Khan Bugti told reporters on Saturday night that the group's leader, Haji Mohammad, was a commander of the Pakistan-based Afghan rebel party Jamiat-i-Islami.

He said preliminary investigations revealed Haji Mohammad also worked for the secret police of the Soviet-backed Afghan government and Pakistani intelligence. (Reuters)

Arab authority for military industrialization seeks support

CAIRO, Jan 7, (Kuna): The Cairo-based Arab Authority for Military Industrialization is hopeful to build up the infrastructure and advanced technology necessary to manufacture any military product requested by any Arab state, its director-general Dr Mohamed Nour Yousef said yesterday.

Speaking exclusively to Kuna here, the official assured that the authority does not face any financial deficit and urged Arab countries to support it by ordering products of the authority.

Founded in 1975 by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar, the authority started with a capital of \$1.04 billion to manufacture

advanced industrial items, including planes and their engines, missiles, air-borne electronic equipment, personnel carriers and armoured vehicles.

However, the three Arab Gulf co-founding states suspended their membership in the authority when Egypt signed the Camp David agreement with Israel in 1979.

Dr Yousef explained that suspension of the three countries' membership did not result in financial deficit as the Egyptian defence ministry purchased the entire authority's output.

But, the official indicated that resumption of the three countries' membership will surely

push forward the organised since the three will expand the area for marketing the authority's products, thereby activating and promoting its capital.

He praised the standard of military hardware produced by the authority, saying it is equal to that produced by Western firms and appealed to Arab states to shop for arms from the authority's nine different plants.

Dr Yousef added the authority have the necessary equipment to overhaul plane engines and called upon Arab states to do their maintenance work with the authority at cheaper costs than charged by Western countries.

EVENTS



'Chandomama' — typical song on the moon



Skit written by Ravi Gavankar.

Maharashtra Mandal

MAHARASHTRA Mandal celebrated their annual day with a cultural programme at the Indian Embassy Auditorium.

The main events of the programme included dance dramas, by children from Salmiyah and Fahadhel, "Dandiya Ras" by teenage girls, an one act skit play in Marathi which depicted a typical working committee meeting proceedings of a house-

ing committee and an orchestra from the Mangaf, Abu Halifa Fahadhel group. The latter, the closing event.

There was also a prize giving ceremony to all the winners of the drawing competition which was organised in late December. The prizes were distributed by the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, A.K. Budhiraja.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher News and Variety
- 9.50 Cartoon Serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Toyour Billa Ajneh: Arabic Serial (part 5)
- 11.45 Sabah Al Kher News and Variety
- 12.15 Al Malqouf: Local Weekly Serial (part 1), starring Abdul Hus-sain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdullah Khraibit
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Breen: Cartoon serial
- 5.15 Mama Anisa and the Children: Local Children Serial, prepared by Samiya Mohammed and presented by Mama Anisa
- 5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
- 6.00 Imam Mohammed Andoh: Historical Serial (part 9)
- 7.00 Varieties
- 7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious Programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim
- 8.00 Cultural Programme (part 1)
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: Local weekly programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes
- 10.15 Ghadan Tushreho Al Shams: Arabic Serial (part 7)
- 11.15 Al Mawed: Variety Programme (part 1), prepared and presented by Tawfeeq Khallaq

- 12.15 News Summary
- 12.20 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.45 Holy Quran and Closedown.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Winnie the Pooh. A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Wild South "Tale of the Crayfish". A look at "Crayfish" which looks like the crab and is found in south seas.
- 7.00 Roving report. A weekly round-up of local Arab and international news.
- 7.30 Trap "Walled in". Jen-evee is a ghost in a ruined castle. Simon and Andy attempt to enter into the castle where they find the magic ring.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Around the World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world.
- 9.00 Tour of Duty "Saigon Pt 2". Strange things are happening on the eve of the Tet Offensive. Zeke tries to save a suicidal marine. Stacy refuses to leave Saigon until she learns the cause of her father's death.
- 10.00 Homeroom "It's not Easy Being Green". When one of Darryl's students kills a tree grown as a class project he teaches them about death by holding a funeral for the tree.
- 10.30 Colourised Movie "Ransom". Starring Glenn Ford, Donna Reed, Leslie Nielsen. A richman takes desperate measures to rescue his son from a kidnapper.
- 12.00 News in brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
White Ghost
Salmiyah
Licence to Kill
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Less Than Zero
Fahadhel

Iron Angels
Al Jahra
Iron Master
Granada
Brass Target
Salaibkhat
C.H.U.D.
Jleeb
Arpan
Ahmadi Drive-in
High Road to China



New Year celebrations

ON December 31, 1989 the families of Yahya Al Ayoub Building celebrated New Year by presenting a programme of colourful and lively variety entertainment held in the building's 2nd floor corridor. Above hundred people gathered and enjoyed the programme. It consisted of carols, dances, a magic show, a drama and a New Year song which were all done by the children of the building with the assistance and encouragement of the parents. The programme ended with dinner after the arrival of Santa Claus with gifts and sweets.

Kuwait
Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kaber St.
Hawalli and Nugra
Al Haditha Pharmacy
Tunis St
Salmiya and Romsithiya
Al Fida Pharmacy

Al Khansa St
Fahadhel and Ahmadi
Abu Hulaifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road, Abu Hulaifa
Khatian
Khatian Pharmacy
Ibrahim Bin Adham St.
Jahra
Al Nour Pharmacy
Al Matafi Street

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.19 am
Zohr	11.55
Asr	2.47 pm
Maghreb	5.05
Isha	6.28

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Photography and Oil painting classes
OIL painting classes beginning 15 January.
Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January.
8 week course, once a week 4.30 to 7.30 pm. For further details please call Ann Eid Tel: 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SOCIAL

Ballet
STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open Saturday in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Like a Hurricane!!
SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Contact
THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held on January 13 at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Their chef will be giving a demonstration. Newcomers welcome. For further information call 5388105 or 4874513.

Saaz Aur Aawaz
FEB 2: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle. Fun-aites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

The Carnival Nite
"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your glit and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion. People's Trust Club
JAN 11: People's Trust Club welcomes you to A day of Your Life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel. New Ballroom from 10.30 pm onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Stepping Stones and Top Ranks, are ready to provide music of 1990s. People's Trust apologises for the postponement of this show last month.

British Council
THE Scarlet and the Black — 137 min. Saturday, 13 Jan and Sunday, 14 Jan at 6.30 pm. This is the remarkable story of an Irish priest, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who founded an organisation to help escaping Allied prisoners of war. Features a brilliant cast: Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer and John Gielgud. Admission is free but please telephone to reserve seats: 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

Study the Humanities and Social Sciences in Britain. For more information on degree-level studies of these subjects, please visit The British Council Education Office on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 January, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and 5.00 to 8.00 pm.

Ladies International League
JAN 8th: 7 pm. Please come and enjoy the Ladies International League's programme for January, presented by the Persian Carpet Museum. Afterwards, you will have time to socialise with your friends. Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom A. Entry fee.

II Annual one act Play Competition
INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February 1990. Please contact: IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Konkani Drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario, Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

Ramada Al Salam
GRAND Indian Food Festival from January 21-26. Display stalls open to Indian companies and individuals. Contact Clifton or Siddiq on 4835344.

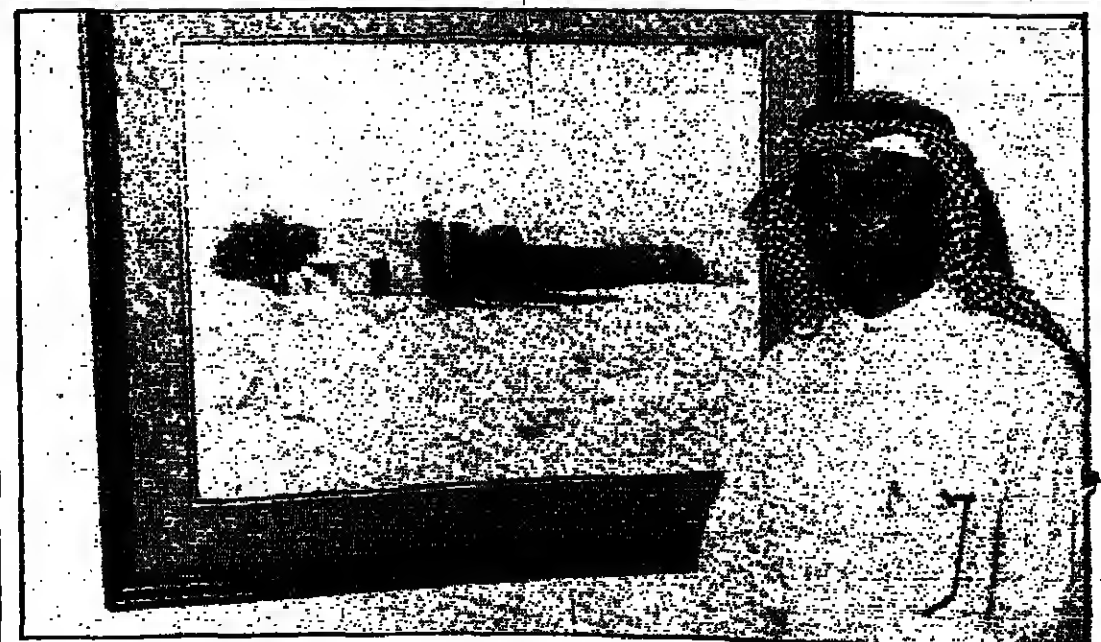
SPORTS

Tivim Centre
TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-

side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Casimiro.

Rothmans Gold Cup Finals
THE finals of the Rothmans' Gold Cup Football Tournament organised by Salce United Sports Centre, the sports wing of the weekend club, will take place on the Sour

Grounds on Friday, January 12 at 9.00 am. Between Incredible Sports Club and Goan Sporting. Aref Essa, manager of Rothmans, will give away the trophies. All are cordially invited.



Full-time artists hold 13th exhibition

Forty-six pieces of art work were on exhibition at the Dahiya Abdullah Al Salim showroom. The exhibition was opened by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Abdul Aziz Jafar.



Goodbye to 1989

Last week, the French School held a social programme to celebrate the end of 1989. The programme included a variety of songs, a short play and prize giving to outstanding students. Dr Yacoub Al Sharrak, the Assistant Undersecretary of Private Education at the Ministry of Education was the guest of honour.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Many investors expect higher mark

Markets look set to test EMS stability

PARIS, Jan 7. (Reuters): Currency markets look set to test the political commitment to European Monetary System (EMS) stability this week following Italy's devaluation of the lira in the first realignment of the semi-fixed grid for three years.

Economists said EMS central banks would resist pressure for a wider currency adjustment with direct market intervention and interest rate rises if necessary after Friday's three per cent devaluation of the lira against the basket of EMS currencies.

But strong investor buying of the West German mark could undermine weak currencies such as the Danish crown and risks isolating France — a strong opponent of a general realignment.

"Now the markets will smell blood," forecast Paul Chertkow, chief international economist at US investment group Drexel Burnham Lambert in London.

The 10-year-old EMS exchange rate mechanism (ERM), which now sets parameters for eight European currencies, was designed to allow adjustments to reflect different economic performance.

"But the EMS is becoming inflexible because of the French position," said Chertkow, noting the three year gap since the last realignment was the longest on record.

"I think the markets will now take the French on," he said. Economists said France wants a more rigid grid as a step toward its cherished goal of economic

and monetary union.

But the West German Bundesbank favours allowing the mark to revalue to make imports cheaper, thus reducing inflation, and pare its huge trade surplus by making its export goods more expensive on world markets.

A mark revaluation in the coming months would clear the decks before the July 1 deadline for the first phase of a European Economic Community plan to move towards economic and monetary union, economists noted.

"I would say the Germans will get their revaluation in the next month or two," said Paul Horne, chief economist at Smith Barney, Harris Upham in Paris. "The Germans are quite consistent that they get it. They believe they are importing inflation."

Many investors also expect a higher mark, and have pushed it up strongly since the Berlin Wall crumbled last November.

They decided Europe's biggest economy would be further boosted by increased trade with its Eastern neighbours.

But gains by the mark strained the EMS grid, and last Friday forced Rome to devalue the lira when it narrowed the currency's allowed divergence band to 2.25 per cent from six per cent.

The lira had been more than four per cent below a set central rate against the mark, outside the narrower band that now applies to all ERM currencies except the Spanish peseta.

Further mark buying this week would accentuate pressure on other

currencies, and could mean even higher interest rates in some countries as they try to defend existing parties.

"European rates have already been moving up, starting with the French rise on December 18. That's a phenomenon that we're likely to see more of in the coming weeks," said Jonathan Hoffman, European economist at Credit Suisse First Boston.

France unilaterally raised official rates by half a percentage point on December 18 after the franc fell to a record low against the mark. Belgium and the Netherlands have also pushed rates up.

France has repeatedly ruled out any devaluation of the franc. Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy arguing that "the first (objective of monetary policy) is

long-lasting stability of the franc against the mark in whatever circumstances."

That political commitment has partly protected the franc from the mark's strength, and Hoffman forecast Denmark could well be the next EMS member to have to raise interest rates.

The Danish crown was quoted at the European close on Friday at 2.35 per cent below a central bilateral rate against the mark, outside the allowed 2.25 per cent swing.

Dealers said that meant EMS central banks should intervene on Monday if the crown opens at the same level, and Denmark could raise rates if speculative pressure continues.

Like Paris, Copenhagen has publicly ruled out a devaluation.

Indonesia proposes 17pc hike in budget

JAKARTA, Jan 7. (Opecna): Indonesia has announced that its proposed state budget for fiscal 1990-91 will balance out at an estimated \$24 billion, up 17 per cent from the previous year.

The estimates, presented at a plenary session of Parliament by President Suharto here yesterday, put income from oil and gas at just over \$6 billion, a 36 per cent rise over the preceding year.

Revenue from the non-petroleum sector is estimated at \$11.6 billion, 19 per cent higher than the previous year.

Government estimates set the amount of programme aid to be received in the new fiscal year at \$1.6 billion, a rise of 60 per cent, while project aid received is estimated to fall by 12 per cent to \$4.7 billion.

Indonesia's financial year begins on April 1, 1990 and the government estimates of income and expenditure will have to be approved by Parliament before becoming effective.

Estimated income from petroleum as presented by President Suharto comprises \$5 billion from oil (up 31 per cent compared with 1989-90) and just over one billion from natural gas (up 62 per cent).

Non-oil income, the bulk of which comes from various taxes and duties, will be derived mostly from income tax (\$3.6 billion), value-added tax (\$3.8 billion), and non-tax revenues (\$1.4 billion).

Import duties are expected to increase 38 per cent for the year to \$1.1 billion while customs duties are estimated to bring just over one billion, up 28 per cent over the previous year.

Concerning expenditure, routine spending is expected to amount to \$14.9 billion, 13 per cent higher than in the previous year, including \$7.1 billion for foreign debt servicing and three billion for salaries and pensions.

The increased expenditure on salary and pension payments is to cover a 10 per cent rise in civil servants' pay, effective January, 1990.

The draft budget sets aside \$4.4 billion for financing foreign-aided development projects, an increase of 117 per cent, while 4.7 billion has been earmarked for implementing project aid programmes.

In announcing the budget figures, Suharto said the estimated increase in income in 1990-91 was based on the recent improvement in the price of petroleum on the international market.

He pointed out that whereas the government had calculated the 1989-90 budget on an oil price of \$14 a barrel, estimates for the new fiscal year had been based on a crude oil price of \$16.50.

Inflation slows

ISTANBUL, Jan 7. (Reuters): Turkey said yesterday that annual inflation slowed in 1989 but bankers warned unless the government reined in spending the problem of high prices would remain.

The State Statistics Institute said inflation fell in 1989 to 68.8 per cent after showing a rise of 75.2 per cent in the previous year.

Bankers, pointing to a widening budget deficit, said inflation would cause worries if public spending was not cut.

Turkey's budget deficit is expected to top 6.2 trillion lira (\$2.7 billion) in 1989, against an official target of 4.48 trillion lira (\$1.9 billion).

Economic growth was around one per cent in 1989 while the population grew 2.5 per cent, stoking official fears that unemployment, already at 17 per cent, may increase further.

Oil discovery

NICOSIA, Jan 7. (Reuters): The Saudi-American oil company (Aramco) said today it had discovered a new oil field in central Saudi Arabia which yielded a low-sulphur high quality crude, Saudi Press Agency said.

SPA quoted an Aramco statement as saying a well drilled 123 km (77 miles) southeast of Riyadh at Al Ragheeb flowed 3,650 barrels per day (bpd) in crude and condensates on January 1.

Aramco did not give figures of the field's estimated reserves.

Consumer protest

MOSCOW, Jan 7. (AP): Consumers who regularly face shortages of food and other items have staged a hunger strike and five-day rally for a very different kind of product — Japanese videocassette recorders.

A Soviet newspaper said today.

The newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya called the recent protest in the Russian city of Yaroslavl a "video-uprising."

Some of the frustrated consumers launched a hunger strike in the town centre to demand a chance to buy Panasonic VCR's, the government daily said.

Traditionally, imported electronic goods have been quietly distributed only to the party and government elite or sold on the black market, where a VCR can fetch as much as 4,000 rubles (about \$6,400).

Opec may not increase official market share

Aqazadeh urges output restraint

NICOSIA, Jan 7. (Reuters): Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh urged fellow Opec members today not to rush into producing more oil to take advantage of a surge in prices.

"I recommend that Opec members show restraint and try to adhere to the aims affirmed in the recent Opec session and that they should raise any points that they have in mind in the next session," Aqazadeh told Tehran radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are due to meet in Vienna in March to discuss their November pact.

On Friday, days after the pact came into effect, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said his country wanted to increase its production quota.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa said in Indonesia last week that the group should consider increasing individual quotas at its March meeting.

Officials and industry executives in the Middle East said today an early Opec decision to increase its market share was unlikely.

Prices have risen by up to \$5 a barrel since the November pact limiting production in the first half of 1990 to around 22.1 million bpd.

The BBC quoted Aqazadeh as saying that from the start of this year Iran had set its production at 3.15 million bpd.

He said Iran was exporting an average 2.5 million bpd and predicted that exports would stay at this level in the coming months.

An early Opec decision to increase its official market share is unlikely despite buoyant oil prices and demands in the Gulf for higher output quotas,



Sheikh Ali

officials and industry executives said today.

They said a leap of up to \$5 a barrel in world oil prices since Opec's November pact limiting output was caused mainly by temporary technical disruptions affecting refined products and had nothing to do with crude oil availability.

"I see a drop of between \$2 to 3 over a couple of weeks," a senior Gulf Arab official told Reuters.

"There are 10 tankers with about 15 million barrels of crude

from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait off the (US) Gulf Coast waiting for (storage) space to offload," he said in a telephone interview.

"At the moment, the Gulf producers are just enjoying the higher prices," the Middle East manager of a major Japanese company told Reuters.

Analysts said the conservative Gulf Arab states might also be working to stop a price explosion that could discourage rising demand for their oil, nearly two-thirds of the world's proven reserves.

At their November 28 meeting, the 13 oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries set a ceiling of around 22.1 million barrels per day (million bpd) for the first half of this year.

They hoped this would take away about 1.5 million bpd from the market and defend oil prices at a "minimum reference" price of \$18 a barrel.

A recent Reuters survey found the 13 member-states produced a record eight-year high of around 23.6 million bpd in December, with the main increase coming from the Gulf region.

Gulf-based oil industry executives said they saw no signs so far that the Gulf Arab states planned output cuts as called for by the pact.

Mishari for Dubai

Reservation system to be reviewed

KUWAIT, Jan 7. (Kuna): Board chairman of the Kuwait Airlines Corporation (KAC) Ahmed Al Mishari flew to Dubai today heading a KAC delegation to a meeting of Arab carriers, which opens tomorrow.

The one-day meeting, in which nine national Arab airlines, will discuss the final steps toward endorsing the project of the comprehensive Arab reservation system.

In pre-departure statement, Al Mishari said that head of the nine carriers will take a final vote on the recommendations reached by the S.H. and E consultancy firm, which conducted a study on the feasibility of the project and the ideal ways to implement it.

The nine airlines, which are members of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation, are the national carriers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iraq, South Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Jordan and Syria.

The KAC chief affirmed that comprehensive Arab booking systems will be of great importance for Arab carriers, as the new system will protect these airlines from the monopoly practiced by giant airlines and will also spare them the payment of \$20 million in booking services from other foreign systems on the market.

The KAC delegation group deputy director-general for commercial affairs Ghazi Al Mashan, acting head of the computer department Hisham Sadeh, and assistant commercial director for reservations Ahmed Al Hail and adviser at the computer department Hisham Sadeh.

The nine carriers had met for the first time in Kuwait last year and agreed to entrust a consultancy firm to examine the feasibility of the project.

Koor, which employs more than 20,000 workers and accounts for over 10 per cent of Israel's industrial output, owes local banks more than two thirds of the billion-dollar debt.

Quoting what appeared to be treasury leaks, Israeli newspapers reported today the government would give Koor \$50 million in and promised last year and another \$50 million in return for equity.

The newspaper said Hovrat Havodim, Koor's parent company, would in return hand over its shares of the national airline El Al, Zim Shipping Company, and National Water Authority Mekorv.

recovery plan in November including a write-off of \$125 million in debt by Israel and foreign creditors. The foreign banks led by US-based Bankers Trust and Manufacturers Hanover, rejected the plan and refused to take part in the write-off.

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Banks blamed for holding up aid for Koor

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 7. (Reuters): The Israeli treasury said today that opposition by foreign creditor banks to a recovery plan for Koor Industries Ltd was holding up government aid to the industrial giant.

The treasury put off a meeting with Koor and bank officials scheduled for tonight because of uncertainty about a government proposal to save the trade union-owned concern which is a billion dollars in debt.

"Aid to Koor will be effective only in the context of a comprehensive arrangement. The position of the foreign banks is still far from allowing this arrangement," the treasury said in a statement.

Foreign bank officials were not available for comment.

Koor, announcing it would have higher-than-forecast losses for 1989, presented a revised five-year

recovery plan in November including a write-off of \$125 million in debt by Israel and foreign creditors. The foreign banks led by US-based Bankers Trust and Manufacturers Hanover, rejected the plan and refused to take part in the write-off.

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EEC to hold talks with America

DUBLIN, Jan 7. (UPI): The European Economic Community will hold talks with US officials about the possibility of establishing formal links between the two economic blocs, Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey said today.

Haughey, who is president of the EEC council of ministers for the next six months, said US Secretary of State James Baker had indicated in Berlin recently that "America wanted to build up a relationship with Europe and that it might be institutionalised."

"We want to follow this up assiduously," Haughey said in an interview on radio Telefís Eireann, the republic's state-backed broadcasting service.

Haughey said Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins will visit the United States in the near future on behalf of the EEC for talks on the proposal. He did not name a date for the proposed meeting, nor did he disclose which US officials were expected to be present.

Speaking after a weekend meeting of the EEC commission in Dublin, Haughey also announced that the EEC foreign ministers have agreed to meet earlier than scheduled to examine the implications of rapidly changing political developments in Eastern Europe.

"This is because developments are taking place so quickly," he said.

The meeting, which most likely will be held in Ireland, is now expected to take place at the end of January instead of next month as originally scheduled, Haughey said.

At the weekend meeting of EEC commissioners, Haughey said the group had agreed on a work agenda for the Irish presidency of the EEC for the next six months.

Venezuela gets renewed IMF backing

Debt negotiators see accord with banks

CARACAS, Venezuela, Jan 7. (AP): Venezuelan debt negotiators flew to New York today for what may be final negotiations on reducing Venezuela's \$33-billion foreign debt, the fourth largest in Latin America.

Caracas newspapers quoted anonymous high-level sources in the government as saying negotiations with a bank advisory committee headed by Chase Manhattan Bank were in the last stages. The report predicted a letter of intent would be signed with commercial creditors before the end of the month.

Pedro Tinoco, central bank president, and Miguel Rodriguez, the planning minister, were to hold talks in New York with the committee that represents Venezuela's approximately 400 commercial creditor institutions in the US, Japan and Europe, according to government sources.

Venezuela received renewed support from the International Monetary Fund this week for its economic reform programmes. The IMF granted some \$323 million as part of its three-year \$4.8 billion loan programme signed earlier this year.

Some \$100 million of the latest disbursement is to be used for debt reduction measures such as direct buy-back of debt on secondary markets, under the IMF programme.

Venezuela's economy contracted by 8.1 per cent in 1989 due to economic reforms drawn up with IMF backing. The reforms included raising the cost of public services such as transport and electricity.

Debt interest payments were suspended in January and capital payments in February, with the government citing a drop in international reserves.

Negotiations with banks have stalled over Venezuela's insistence on receiving the same treatment as Mexico, which struck an agreement with commercial banks in March.

Vietnam faces cutback in loans

Hanoi angry over IMF blockade

HANOI, Jan 7. (Reuters): Vietnam, facing a major cutback in loans from allies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, says Western lending institutions are withholding desperately needed aid out of malice.

Deputy director of Vietnam State Bank's foreign department, Nguyen Cong Hai, said Hanoi had been waiting since September for the IMF to help secure a loan to pay off the country's debts even though Vietnam had satisfied all the fund's requirements.

"The relationship between the IMF and Vietnam has been influenced by political factors, particularly the Cambodian problem," he told Reuters. "Now that problem is over there is no excuse for delaying a relationship between us."

Hai said loans from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe — totalling some one billion roubles (\$1.6 billion at Moscow's official rate) so far under a current five-year plan — would drop sharply in 1991.

"They have their own economic problems now. We foresee major borrowing difficulties," he said. "They are committed to 1990 as the year of the five-year plan then that's it."

Vietnam, which pulled its troops out of Cambodia last September, was on the brink of securing a loan of between \$150 and 140 million from a group of Western banks offering by the bank by the Banque Paribas de Commerce Extérieure (BPCE) to settle outstanding debts with the IMF, he said.

The IMF, which stopped aid to Vietnam in 1985 after the impoverished country defaulted on payments, has insisted the debt be paid off before the fund renews lending.

Hai said BPCE was waiting for the IMF to adopt a resolution acknowledging Vietnam had complied with the fund's proposal for bringing the country's economy into line with the rest of the world.

Gulf power show

Finns out to win business

THE Finnish Foreign Trade Association — Finland's main export promotion body — is to head a seven-strong delegation to Middle East Electricity '90 which will begin later this month.

Companies ranging from engine manufacturers to electricity component producers have joined the delegation in a bid to secure valuable export orders from the booming Gulf power industry.

Wartsila Diesel, one of the country's leading engine manufacturers which recently clinched two major orders for water projects in Saudi Arabia, will exhibit diesel power plants at the exhibition which will be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from January 14-17.

Wartsila is currently supplying four generating sets for a 12,000kw power station at the Sndair water drilling plant, north-west of Riyadh.

Bombay shares

BSE Index	760.80	774.58	St Mills	690	70	96
Ekafeys	157.50	165	Tata Oil	128	132	120
Esar Syg	32.75	32.50	Tata Chem	465	470	445
Food Spl	118.75	120	Tata Pow	125	128	128
Forbes	53.75	51.25	Telec	125	128	125
Gas Poly	56	55	Thapp Agro	117.75	112.50	114.50
Glinda	112.50	122.50	Vam Org	142.50	146.25	150
GNFC	125	127	Vareli	23.75	21.25	23.75
Greshm	125	125.50	Vareli	73.50	710	73.50
GE Sino	51.50	52	Waco	60	59	61
Grain	177.50	180	Zenith	60	59	61
Guj Alk	80	79	Zuari Agro	65	63	64
Guj Heavy	17.50	17				
Iero India	19	18				
Hind Cind	1480	1510				
Hind Lever	118.50	114				

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Foreign exchange reserves decrease

TOKYO, Jan 7, (UPI): Japan's foreign exchange reserves at the end of 1989 posted the sharpest year-on-year fall on record because of the Central Bank's yen-supporting intervention but the country was believed to be the largest foreign currency holder in the world, the Finance Ministry reported yesterday.

The ministry said Japan's foreign exchange holdings totalled \$84.895 billion, up \$148 million from November but down \$12.767 billion from the preceding year.

Despite the sharp fall, Japan's foreign exchange reserves were believed to be the largest in the world, ministry officials said.

Ministry officials attributed the year-to-year decrease largely to repeated yen-supporting operations by the Central Bank during the year.

It was the first time since 1982 Japan's foreign exchange reserves had fallen from the preceding year, the ministry said.

The previous record decrease of \$12.692 billion was set at the end of the second international oil crisis in 1979.

The officials said the yen fluctuated wildly in a range of 27.55 yen against the dollar during 1989 because of a wide interest gap between Japan and the United States and political developments in China and Eastern Europe.

Japan's foreign exchange holdings compared with about \$74 billion for Taiwan at the end of October last year, \$71.468 billion for the United States and \$63.762 billion for West Germany, the officials said.

First accord backs private investment

WASHINGTON, Jan 7, (AP): A new international body announced yesterday the first accord in its job of bolstering private investment throughout the world: insurance of a US mining company against damage from any war in Indonesia.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) is guaranteeing \$50 million being invested by the freeport McMoran Copper Co. of New Orleans, Louisiana, against losses over 14 years from war or from breach of contract by the Indonesian government. The company is planning to spend more than \$500 million to expand a copper, silver and gold mine in Indonesia's island province of Irian Jaya.

Irian Jaya is the eastern half of the big island of New Guinea. The western half is the independent country of Papua New Guinea, where rebels have upset the international copper market by shutting down one of the world's biggest mines.

Political risks were taken into account in writing the insurance but the policy does not cover civil uprisings, said Leigh P. Hollywood, the agency's vice-president for guarantees. He added that the company has private insurance against that kind of damage.

Yoshio Terasawa of Japan, the agency's executive vice president, told a news conference that its international board has also authorised policies for other American and Canadian ventures, two in Chile and one in Ghana.

Many individual governments have long had similar agencies to insure their own citizens' investments abroad, such as the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). The new agency is designed to encourage the acceptance of foreign investment by Third World countries which are wary of too much influence by individual big powers.

The other three authorised projects have not yet been finally approved by the company and by the agency staff. Hollywood explained that there has to be an interval between the board's approval and the signing of a contract while both sides review all the long-term considerations. The agency's guarantees can last for as long as 20 years and cannot be revoked.

Auto exports decline

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 7, (AP): South Korea's auto makers reported yesterday their combined exports in 1989 plunged 40 per cent from a year ago to 347,000 motor vehicles, but domestic sales jumped 48.6 per cent to 778,000 vehicles.

The sharp drop in exports was mainly attributed to a reduced demand in the United States and a loss of price competitiveness caused by the Korean currency's appreciation, steep wage hikes and labour strikes.

Officials at the five companies all said that to cope with reduced sales overseas, the local markets stressed marketing at home where profits were bigger on strong demand, particularly among people at mid-income levels.

They said most of the exports were small cars and that about 75 per cent of the exports went to the United States.

Hyundai Motor Co., the country's biggest automaker, suffered most. Its sales of exports last year dropped 50.7 per cent from a year ago to 200,877 vehicles.

Romania to restart imports from West

BUCHAREST, Jan 7, (Reuters): Romania's new leaders, anxious to satisfy the needs of the people and rebuild their shattered economy, are to restart imports of consumer goods and much-needed technology from the West.

Prime Minister Petre Roman, quoted yesterday by the Rompress news agency, said the ruling National Salvation Front leadership had authorised hard currency imports worth \$125

million for the first quarter of 1990 along with a large increase in imports from the East bloc.

"We have endorsed a very large plan of imports for the stage of our economy," Roman said.

Former leader Nicolae Ceausescu banned imports from the West as part of a drive to pay off the country's foreign debt. Food was exported while

the population suffered rationing. Roman, stressing the needs of the people, said in some sectors no imports had been approved for more than 10 years.

He cited transport, natural gas distribution, medicine, education and telecommunications as particularly in need of up-to-date technology.

Since the front took power, Romania's shops have filled with goods formerly reserved for the privileged few and food exports have been halted.

Rompress said Roman told a meeting of the front council the government had agreed imports from its east bloc neighbours worth 155 million roubles (\$250 million), 3.5 times higher than in the same period last year.

Since the new government lifted power rationing, gas and electricity supply had been increased by 40-45 per

cent, he said, adding that the country was investigating importing power from neighbouring countries.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said yesterday the Soviet Union would provide 22 million cubic metres (777 million cubic feet) of gas and 390 million tonnes of oil in emergency aid.

Roman described the country's balance of payments as "very acceptable." The foreign debt was some \$500 million, while \$2.5 billion was owed by foreign debtors.

In the past eight years Romania has paid back some \$11 billion in principal on loans and \$9 billion in interest and service charges.

On January 3, the front scrapped a law by Ceausescu banning foreign borrowing.

Bid to accelerate post-war recovery

Baghdad to pay \$3b of overseas debt

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Jan 7, (AP): Iraq's financial problems should ease to the coming decade and the government will be able to speed up paying off the huge foreign debt it ran up during the 8-year war with Iran, acting Finance Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said today.

Saleh, who is also trade minister, told a news conference that Baghdad will pay off \$3 billion of its debt this year and stop all its short-term credits with foreign countries in a bid to accelerate its post-war recovery.

"We will sharply reduce our purchases by short-term credit... we're capable of paying that in cash," Saleh said.

The US-educated economist, who drew up a new austerity budget unveiled last month, said that an expected rise in oil prices, a higher Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries oil production quota and a cut-back in imports will make faster debt repayment possible.

But he declined to say how much Iraq is in debt or how long it will take to repay its creditors.

Iraq's foreign debt has been conservatively estimated at \$25-30 billion.

Investment plan

BAGHDAD, Jan 7, (Opecna): Iraq has allocated \$17.97 billion for the 1990 investment plan, according to Planning Minister Samal Majed Faraj.

The minister stated last week that the amount would help in setting up projects contributing to commodity production in industrial and agricultural sectors, adding that it would also help in the development and increasing productive capacities in other sectors.

About \$12.4 billion or 69 per cent of the total would go to industry and 2.91 billion to agriculture, Faraj pointed out.

He stated that the allocations designated for state-financed projects totalled \$16.34 billion, while about 1.63 billion would go to projects being financed by economic organisations.

Sectorwise, the projects covered by the current year's investment plan are: industry (247), transport and communications (200), construction and services (286), agriculture (187) and education and scientific research (103).

That does not include an estimated \$30-35 billion provided by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states to prop up Iraq's economy during the war. Economists believe the Saudis and their partners will write that off.

Baghdad has negotiated rescheduling of its debts with several creditor nations, including France, since the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in the Gulf war took effect in August 1988.

It has also embarked on an ambitious development plan and expanded its oil and petrochemical industry. Iraq has oil reserves estimated at 100 billion barrels, ranking second only to Saudi Arabia.

Stable oil prices, currently pegged at around \$18 a barrel, will ensure revenues estimated at \$15 billion this year. Iraq's current Opec quota is 3.14 million barrels a day.

He noted that Baghdad has already asked Britain, with

whom it has about \$800 million credits facilities for 1990, to stop all short-term credits as the government will be able to pay in cash for its purchases, mostly in pharmaceuticals and medicines.

Saleh said short-term credits are costly and add to the country's financial burden.

He said Iraq has also redrafted its economic priorities to give agriculture more funds to increase food production in the coming decade.

Investment in the agricultural sector has been increased by 18 per cent this year to about 965 million dinars (more than \$1 billion) to boost production of cereals, poultry and other basic foodstuffs, he disclosed.

But he said the current trade plan will also give priority to food imports. These will take more than one-quarter of the 2.7 billion dinars (\$8 billion) allocated for imports of various goods and capital goods.

It was the first time that President Saddam Hussein's government has officially disclosed details of its annual budget since the Gulf war broke out in September 1980.

Eastern European lending up

BASEL, Switzerland, Jan 7, (AP): Banks of the leading industrialised countries have significantly increased their lending to Eastern Europe and some Asian Third World countries in the first half of 1989 while outstanding claims on most developing countries outside Asia declined, according to a report published yesterday by the Bank of International Settlements, BIS.

In current dollar terms, the banks' consolidated claims on countries outside the so-called reporting area declined by \$23.4 billion or nearly 4 per cent to a new total of \$630 billion.

The reporting area includes the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Austria and Spain.

Taking into account the effects of the dollar's exchange rate fluctuations, claims were estimated to have increased marginally by about \$700 million during the six-month period, the BIS report said.

Claims on Eastern Europe went up by 5.3 billion, or 6.5 per cent and mostly at short term, to a total of \$86.5 billion. Of the new funds, 4.2 billion were obtained by the Soviet Union. New credits were also recorded for Bulgaria, 0.7 billion, East Germany, 0.5 billion, and Hungary, 0.3 billion.

Recorded claims on Poland declined by a further 0.4 billion, and on Romania by a further 0.3 billion. Because of rescheduling arrangements, 70.9 per cent of the \$9.2 billion worth of claims on Poland now are due only after more than two years.

Taiwan's exports surge

Trade surplus widens

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Jan 7, (AP): Taiwan registered a trade surplus of \$13.93 billion last year, an increase of 27.5 per cent from 1988, the government reported yesterday.

Taiwan's exports in 1989 totalled \$62.2 billion dollars, a 9.3 per cent increase over 1988, while imports were \$52.27 billion, up 5.3 per cent, said the government's directorate general of budget, accounting and statistics.

Taiwan's surplus with the United States, its largest trading partner, grew 15.1 per cent to \$12 billion last year, the agency said.

Exports to the United States totalled \$24 billion in 1989, compared with \$23.43 billion a year earlier, and imports of American products totalled \$12 billion, compared with \$13 billion in 1988, the report said.

Taiwan's trade with Japan, its second-largest trading partner, posted a deficit of \$6.97 billion last year, up 14.9 per cent from 1988.

Taiwan's imports from Japan totalled \$16.03 billion in 1989, compared with \$14.82 billion in 1988, and exports to Japan totalled \$9.06 billion, compared with \$8.76 billion in 1988.

Meanwhile, Taiwan registered a surplus of \$2.56 billion with European countries last year on two-way trade of \$19.32 billion.

The surplus represents a 36.1 per cent increase over the previous period. "External factors boosted Taiwan's exports and its overall trade surplus," said Yu Teh-Pei, chairman of the Economics Department at Soochow University.

Yu said Taiwan won extra opportunities last year as labour unrest in South Korea and political turmoil in China drove some foreign orders to this island. The better-than-expected economic situation in the United States also helped Taiwan's trade, he said.

Taiwan's total trade surplus shrank 42 per cent to \$10.93 billion in 1988. Meanwhile diplomatic sources said yesterday that an application by Taiwan to join GATT poses complex legal and political problems for the world trade forum.

This is because the United Nations recognises Taiwan as a province of mainland China, and Beijing, which is also seeking GATT membership, has previously succeeded in keeping Taipei out of most international organisations, the sources said.

Factory orders jump

WASHINGTON, Jan 7, (AP): Orders to US factories for manufactured goods rose 2.4 per cent in November, pumped up by durable goods to the second highest level ever, the government reported yesterday.

The Commerce Department said orders for both durable and non-durable manufactured goods totalled a seasonally adjusted \$239.7 billion after edging down 0.1 per cent in October.

It was the highest level of orders since a record \$239.9 billion were posted last April and the fastest rate of increase since a 2.8 per cent advance in August.

The department said all of the November improvement was in orders for durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last more than three years. All of the major durable categories recorded increased sales.

The report was one of several recently portraying a mixed picture of the extent of sluggishness in the economy, particularly in housing and the durable-goods manufacturing sector.

Improvements have been reported in November, for instance, in sales of new and existing houses and of durable goods, and industrial production advanced 0.1 per cent.

But the Labour Department reported Friday that the manufacturing sector lost 25,000 jobs in December, bringing job losses in this area to 195,000 since last March.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rate eases against dollar

Kuwaiti dinar
BASED on last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate traded lower against the US dollar ending the week at 292.88 fils compared with its week before last closing of 291.97 fils. The KD was 8.50 per cent against the pound sterling, ending the week at 470.57 fils compared with its week before last closing of 474.98 fils.

The KD was firmer against the DM ending the week at 169.64 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.99 fils. The KD was also firmer against the SFR ending the week at 185.60 fils compared with its week before last closing of 191.08 fils, according to the Gulf Bank weekly market view.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 430.71 fils compared with its week before last closing of 429.37 fils. The KD traded slightly lower against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short-term interbank offer rates traded relatively lower within a narrow range over the week. One-month interbank rates traded over the week at 8.50 per cent - 8.56 per cent compared with 8.50 per cent the week before last. Three-month interbank rates also traded at 8.50 per cent - 8.56 per cent compared with 8.43 per cent - 8.50 per cent range for the week before last. Rates for longer periods continued to trade lower around 8.31 per cent - 8.37 per cent range for both 6 and 12 months.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced its new T-Bill issue No. (86) of KD100 million with effective and maturity dates of January 10 and April 11, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets
Wall Street stock prices rallied earlier in the week on a stronger dollar and new money in the hands of investment managers at the beginning of the year. However, profit-taking, bond market weakness and nervousness about political developments in the Soviet Union sent US stock prices lower later in the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2810 and closed lower at 2773, but recording a gain of 20 points over the previous week's closing at 2753. Share prices on the London stock market firmed earlier in the week, helped by Wall Street's strong rise. However, prices ended lower responding to profit-taking and a mixed Wall Street. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2433, reached a high of 2463, before closing lower at 2444, but recording a gain of 21 points over the previous week's closing at 2423.

US dollar
The US dollar started the year firmer, running over resistance levels and triggering short-covering and stop-loss orders. On the one hand, the gains were viewed as a technical correction to the steep sell off at the end of 1989, on the other hand, they were attributed to growing belief that recent strong US economic data has put the brakes on further declines in US interest rate for now thereby fostering a positive backdrop for the currency. However, it fell later in the week on surprisingly weak US December employment data, thus rekindling expectations of lower US credit.

The US employment report showed December non-farm payrolls rose by only 142,000, while November figure was revised up to 222,000 from the originally announced 211,000. The December unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.3 per cent. A drop of 25,000 in the manufacturing jobs deepened concerns about the economy's fragility. The Labour Department said exceptionally cold weather in December slowed activity in manufacturing and construction.

Pound sterling
The pound opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.6089/99 and closed higher at \$1.6345/55 compared to its week before last closing at \$1.6100/10.

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major said in a newspaper interview that he was not worried that the fall in sterling's value during 1989 would jeopardise the government's anti-inflationary goals. He also repeated last month's forecast that the annual rise in the retail price index would fall to 5.75 per cent in the fourth quarter 1990 from around 7.75 per cent currently.

Japanese yen
The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 146.55/65 yen and closed the week lower at 144.50/60 yen compared to its week before closing at 143.80/90. Although Bank of Japan over the week exerted its best efforts by intervening in the open money market to curb the dollar rise against the yen, however the yen continued to fall for most part of the week. Bank of Japan officials commented on the recent dollar rise against the yen as speculative and that there was no logic reason behind this sharp rise.

On the other hand, the recent dollar rise against the yen can be attributed to a combination of several factors, namely, large-scale option-related buying of dollar against the yen, renewed jitters over Japanese politics and finally, fading expectations of an early easing of US credit policy. Despite the fact that Japanese officials believe there are no fundamental factors behind the yen fall against the dollar, however it is clear that speculative buying of dollars against the yen has pushed the yen to its lows.

Deutsche mark
The mark opened the week against the US dollar at 1.7130/40 marks and closed the week unchanged at 1.6900/10 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.6900/10 marks.

The mark remains the market's favourite and continues to show potentials of strength as trade resumed after New Year's holiday. High domestic interest rates and prospects for a boom in W. German economy after E. Germany's opening to the West bank in November continued to underpin the Mark.

Provisional data for W. German Gross National Product for 1989 is expected to be released sometime next week, and forecast of such data are hovering around 4 per cent which is the highest of the decade.

French franc
The French franc opened the week against the US dollar at 5.8351/65 FFR and closed slightly higher at 5.7755/65 compared to its week before last closing at 5.7780/30 FFR.

The Swiss Franc opened the week against the US dollar at 1.5808/18 SFR and closed higher at 1.5445/55 SFR, but slightly lower compared to its week before last closing at 1.5415/30 SFR.

Precious metals
Precious metals prices moved lower over last week, undermined by the firm dollar and tracking gold's downturn following losses in New York futures. However, prices recovered later in the week after moving to higher levels on the back of a lower dollar and news that Soviet President Gorbachev had cancelled January meetings with foreign politicians which raised questions about his political standing and sparked a gold price rally.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at 401.001.50 \$/oz and closed higher at 404.50/405 \$/oz, recording a gain of 3 \$/oz over the previous week's closing at 401.50/402 \$/oz.

Silver bullion prices opened the week at 5.22/524 \$/oz and closed higher at 5.29/531 \$/oz, recording a gain of 8 cents over the previous week's closing at 5.23 \$/oz.

Platinum prices opened the week at 474/475 \$/oz and closed sharply higher at 496/497 \$/oz recording a sharp gain of 46\$/oz over the previous week's closing at 450/451 \$/oz.



Customers wait in line inside a savings and loan institution in Buenos Aires, Argentina, formed long lines at banks when reopened Jan 4 after six days due to a government programme to stop hyperinflation. (Reuters wirephoto)

Savers outraged

Savings swap aims to curb inflation

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 7, (UPI): Banks in Argentina reopened Thursday for the first time since Dec 28 as saddened and angry depositors waited to long lines.

Thousands of savers were forced by decree to swap \$3 billion in cash from certificates of deposit for medium-term bonds.

"I will never again put any of my money into the Argentine banking system," said an elderly businessman.

The drastic government measure, designed to lower the rate of the US dollar, appeared effective in its immediate objective.

Moody traders sold the dollar for 1,300 australs one hour after banks opened at noon, a drop in the value of the US currency by about a third.

On Dec 28, the last previous financial trading day, a dollar was worth 1,950 australs.

Although CDs now are banned, interest rates still are astronomical.

Mario Amadeo, president of the Bank of the Province of Buenos Aires, said Thursday regular savings deposits at his institution would pay monthly interest rates from 50 per cent to 60 per cent.

The forced savings swap was designed to curb

inflation, now running at a rate of over 50 per cent a month, by lowering the rate of the dollar.

Only small savers, or those with CDs worth \$500 or less, were allowed to withdraw their cash.

Banks were closed on Dec 29 and Jan 1 because of regular holidays. They remained closed Tuesday and Wednesday to give time to adopt to the government decree Moody that banned short-term certificates of deposit, known as "Plazo fijos."

These CDs, legal prior to Moody's surprise ban, were granted by both state and private banks usually for terms of seven days. They carried interest rates above the monthly inflation rate.

Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez, in announcing the ban on CDs, said the forced termination was necessary to end the hyperinflationary cycle and save the banking system from collapse.

Savers waiting in line Thursday for banks to reopen were outraged.

"This is worse than a swindle. This is bad faith," said a 66-year-old retired businessman while waiting in line to get an I.O.U. for bonds in lieu of his certificate of deposit.

Canadians worry about free trade as benefits seem elusive

OTTAWA, Jan 7, (Reuters): It took a lot of convincing to get Canadians to agree to open their borders to free trade with the United States, their big neighbour to the South.

But after one year of free trade, support among the Canadian public is slipping as workers lose their jobs and the trade picture worsens.

"There is sign after sign that it's been very detrimental to our economy," said Maude Barlow, one of the most outspoken critics of the trade deal as head of the council of Canadians, a nationalist group.

After months of hard bargaining with the Americans, conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulrooney signed the sweeping free trade deal on January 2, 1989.

He predicted at the time that the deal, eliminating all bilateral tariffs and many non-tariff barriers over a 10-year period, would ensure the continued prosperity of the nation.

The agreement was nearly derailed by vocal opposition that claimed Canadian sovereignty was at stake. Opponents argued that Canada, with a population of 25 million, was in danger of being absorbed by a nation 10 times as populous.

Saying it wanted the people to decide, the opposition Liberal Party forced an election on the issue in November 1988 by preventing approval of the legislation in parliament.

In an emotional, see-saw election

campaign, Mulrooney ultimately convinced Canadians to take the agreement on faith and won a second conservative majority government.

Canadians were won over by promises that unfettered access to the world's largest economy would spur the country's growth and lead to substantial savings for consumers.

Although free trade boosters cautioned that it would take years for the benefits to become evident, Canadians have grown disenchanted with the pact.

A recent poll published by Toronto-based Maclean's magazine found that a majority of Canadians, 52 per cent, now believe the deal was a bad, or very bad, idea. A similar survey in 1988 found that 57 per cent supported the

accord.

Support has fallen during a period of slower growth and a deterioration of the country's trading performance, which economists say can be blamed on international conditions rather than just the free trade agreement.

Last October, Canada, which sends 80 per cent of its exports to the United States, announced its first monthly trade deficit with the rest of the world in 13 years. In the first 10 months of 1989 the country's trade surplus had been slashed in half to \$3.44 billion.

There have been a number of well-publicised job reductions and plant closures in the automobile sector and elsewhere which critics are quick to say are the result of free trade.

The council of Canadians estimates — that free trade has wiped out 75,000 jobs in the first year.

The government predicted Canadian consumers would realise substantial savings as tariffs were cut on furniture, computers and other products in the first year.

"It's quite clear we haven't seen any significant reduction for consumers," said David Simpson, executive director of the Consumer Association of Canada.

Canada and the United States already have the most successful trading relationship in the world, and most economists and business leaders believe the trade agreement will only enhance the relationship in the years ahead.

However, independent forecasters Infometrica Ltd predicts that trade will grow only modestly this year.

It said in its latest forecast that total two-way trade between the two countries is expected to grow by 6 per cent to \$170 billion. But, after taking account of inflation, its real growth will be only one per cent.

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Mystic speaks out

'Palmistry can reveal your inherent chances'

SEX appeal, heartbreak and luck are all in the hands of the stars, says top palmist Sue Armstrong. And in her latest book, *Star Palms*, mystic Sue reveals how you can assess your own star qualities by matching your palms with those of TV and showbiz celebrities.

Sue saw a "dark shadow" around the hands of Roy Kinnear, who died tragically at the age of 53. She told soap star Stephanie Beacham that she was psychic. And she revealed an aggressive streak in comedian Barry Humphries, who plays larger than life Aussie housewife Dame Edna Everage.

Sue, aged 42, told me: "With palmistry, you can discover the opportunities within you and get to know yourself and others better. When I read the hands of the stars, I almost expected a wealth of markings on their hands indicating charmed lives.

"But instead I found that the most energetic influence was in fact Jupiter and Mars, the sign of drive and persistence. All the personalities I spoke to have the ability to overcome any difficult phase. It was amazing to find so much strength in so many people."

Slim, blonde Sue, an avid theatre and film fan, spent nearly two years collecting and analysing palm prints of the famous for her book.

And some celebrities were unnerved by her accuracy. Sue, who lives with her husband Den in sleepy Rustington, Sussex, told me: "Stephanie Beacham, star of *The Corgis* and *Connie*, was fascinated by my reading. I told her she was a forceful, commanding woman with no time for ditherers."

"But I also saw great sadness in her hands, and I could tell there had been crises in the past when Stephanie's inner self was torn. Stephanie told me the reading was quite uncanny."

One of the most outstanding things Sue picked up on Stephanie's hand is her index, or Jupiter, finger. If yours, too, sways unusually strongly away from the hand, it means you have a challenging nature, sometimes bossy and indifferent to the world.

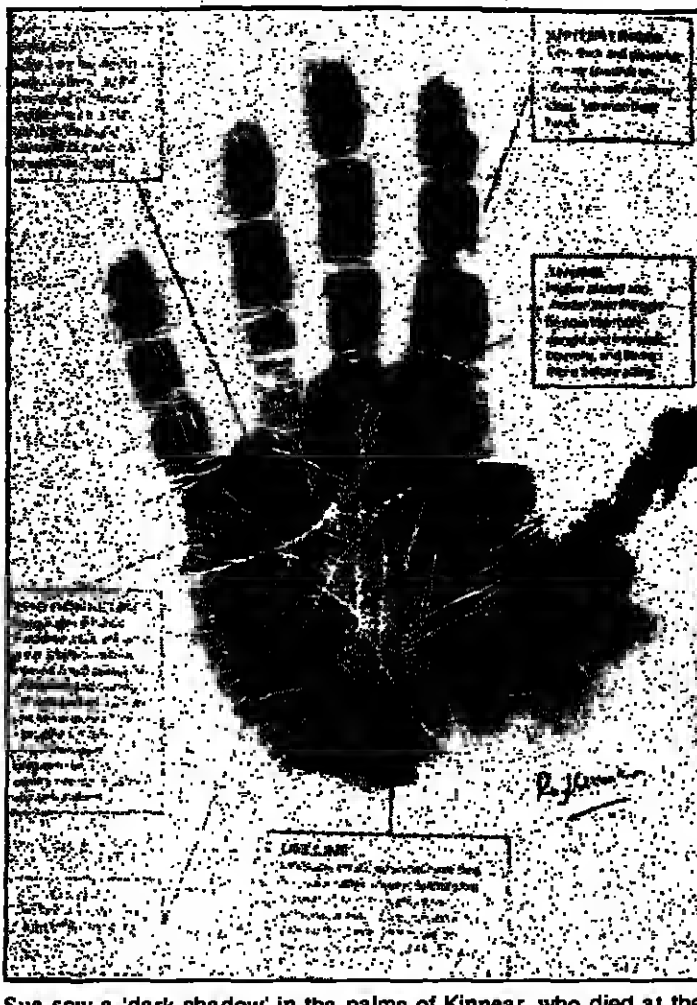
And if your fate line — which can stem from anywhere on the palm and is read upwards — crosses your head line — which begins between the thumb and forefinger at the centre of the palm, and if like Stephanie, you have crosses between your head and heart line — which begins underneath the little finger — then Sue claims you are psychic.

Sue gave a less optimistic reading to character actor Roy Kinnear, well-known for his comic roles in the film *The Three Musketeers* and numerous TV sitcoms.

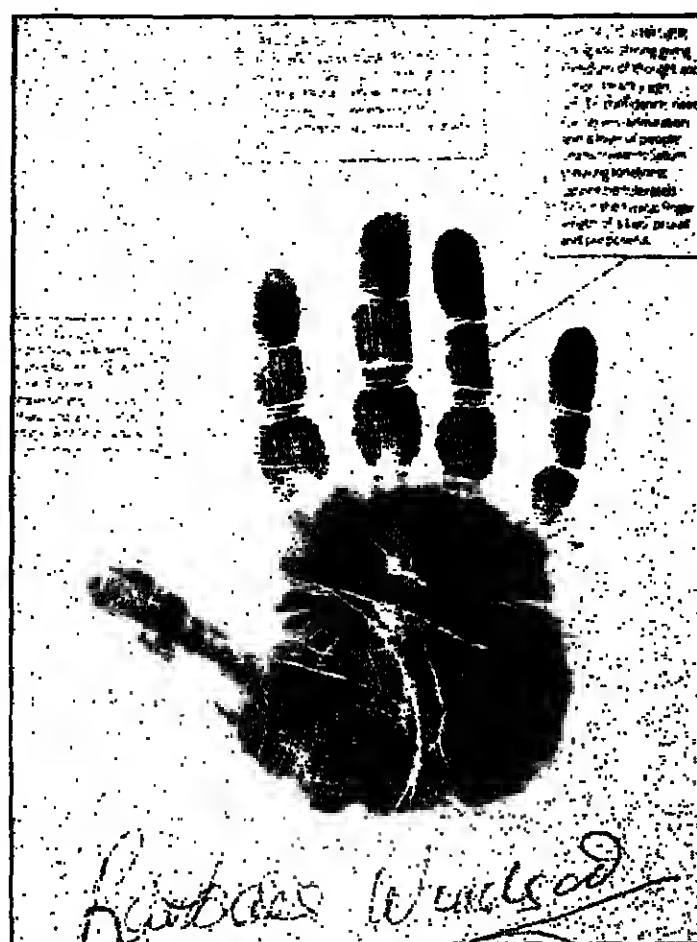
She said: "I felt a dark shadow around him, and a sadness which



Glamorous 'Dynasty' star Stephanie Beacham was told by Sue that she's psychic.



Sue saw a 'dark shadow' in the palms of Kinnear, who died at the tragically early age of 53 while making a film.



Bubbly Barbara Windsor's hands revealed that she was just like her 'Carry On' character — warm, cheeky and sexy.

I couldn't pinpoint exactly. This was a man ruled by his physical passions but who unfortunately allowed too many frustrations to restore his balance."

And she added: "Roy Kinnear's hands were a good example of round hands, they had a circular appearance full of flesh and bursting with life, adventure and challenge. Their owners tend to be fiery spirits — but their impulsiveness may give them problems."

Only months after Sue's reading, hard-working actor Roy died after falling off his horse while filming.

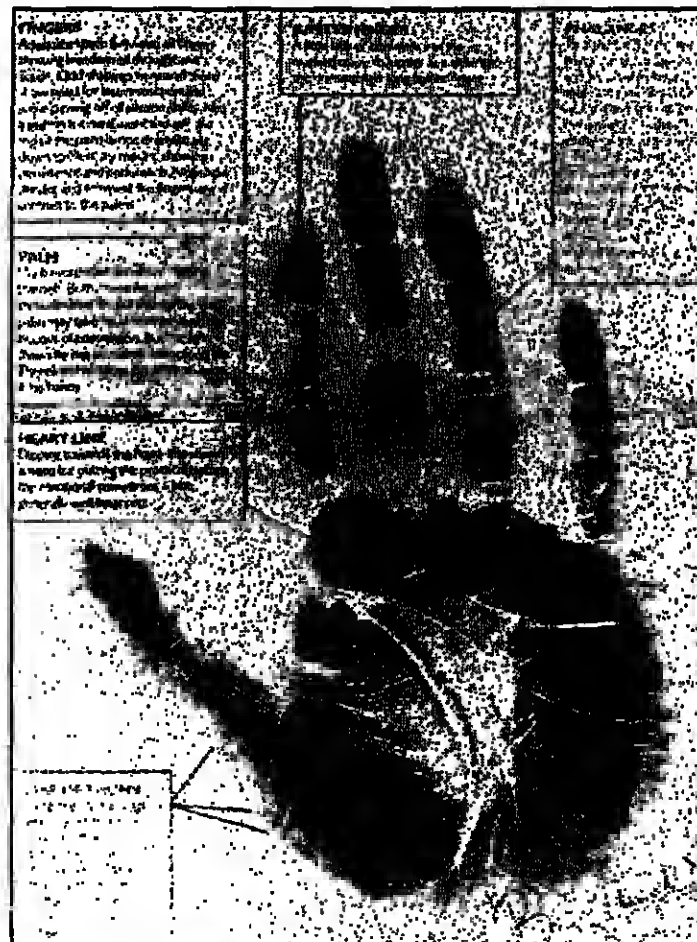
Sue told me: "I very rarely see anything devastating when I am reading hands, but I had a strange sensation when looking at Roy's."

Sue, who has been practising palmistry for nearly ten years, says she felt honoured to analyze the palms of her idols in the world of showbiz.

She told me: "Perhaps the most complex character I met was Barry Humphries. His hand was amazing. Onstage as Dame Edna, or in his other role as uncouth cultural attaché Les Patterson, Barry is awe-inspiring and flamboyant. And the raging



Actress Susannah York has four fata lines, which means she was destined for fame from an early age.



Barry Humphries, alias Dame Edna Everage, has a vulgar, aggressive streak, according to Sue, which helps him put audiences in their place.

Sue, who has a 24-year-old daughter called Gail, admits that the celebrity she most enjoyed talking to while researching the book was actress Susannah York, star of TV drama *We'll Meet Again*.

Sue told me: "We had a very good rapport, and Susannah was very helpful and supportive. The most extraordinary thing about her hand was that she has four fate lines, which can stem from anywhere in the palm and lead upwards. It's astonishing to find so many. It seems fate was deemed from birth for Susannah — surely this lady must always have been aware of a burning sense of purpose."

Fair-haired, softly-spoken Susannah admitted to feeling a "shiver of recognition" from Sue's reading.

In *Star Palms*, Sue also reveals the secret shyess behind top chat show host Michael Aspel's success. Sue told me that the palm of the 55-year-old TV personality, who is currently hosting *This Is Your Life*, shows that he has had to struggle against a terrible weakness — "a lurking shyess that chips away at my confidence."

She told me: "If Michael has managed to overcome his natural shyess it's through being hard on himself. But the tall Mercury and Apollo fingers (little and fourth fingers) show how charismatic he is. It's impossible to avoid falling into the spell of his charm, which can be sensed in the beautiful silky texture of both palms."

June Brown, the popular *Dot Cotton* of TV's *EastEnders*, has an acute psychic power, says Sue. She told me: "Busy lines over the hand tell of June's psychic awareness. And she has another highly developed capacity — to serve others. If she were an actress, a counselling or healing profession would have suited her, for the healing power is reflected in the heart line — which extends from the top outside corner of the palm — and the lines running over the mount of Mercury, underneath the little finger."

Sue believes that palmistry can help everyone, not just the stars, to understand their own personalities and impulses.

She said: "I don't know why palmistry works, but it does. A palm reader has to be sensitive, sincere, and kindly. And I like to feel that each person whose palm is read is as happy as I am with the result."

And Sue added: "But for me, it was especially rewarding to read the palms of people I have admired onscreen for years. I learnt so much about their secret characters — just by looking at their hands."

"*Star Palms*, by Sue Armstrong, is published by Victor Gollancz Ltd and priced at £4.95

Martin Landau's performance may win Oscar

Portrayal of murderous doc in *Crimes and Misdemeanours* brilliant

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): One of the year's best prospects for an Oscar nomination is Martin Landau for his brilliant performance as the murderous doctor in Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanours*.

Landau was nominated for best supporting actor last year for his performance in *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*, but he lost out in the balloting to Kevin Kline who played an out-of-control crazy in *A Fish Called Wanda*.

This year the veteran character actor is up against equally tough competition just to get nominated for supporting actor honour: Danny Aiello in *Do the Right Thing*, Denzel Washing-

ton and Morgan Freeman in *Glory* and Alan Alda, who like Landau appeared in *Crimes and Misdemeanours*.

The major question involving Landau and other potential nominees for supporting player is determining just what constitutes a starring role versus a supporting role.

In Landau's case, his performance in *Crimes and Misdemeanours* could be interpreted as a leading role — he speeds as much or more time on screen as Allen or anyone else in the cast.

But his thinking is clear: "When you make a picture with Woody, you're a supporting player," he said. An example

would be Michael Caine, who won an Oscar for supporting actor when he worked with Allen in *Hannah and Her Sisters*.

"To me a nomination is a tip of the hat from your peers. And I like that," Landau said.

"It's not a popularity contest. Actors are tough on each other. As a result, if they give you Oscar recognition, I value that, because it comes from people who do what you do to make a living. A nomination is a vote of confidence."

Landau admits that it helps an actor's chances if he is in a superb hit and *Crimes and Misdemeanours* does not fall into that category.

"The more people who see

your performance, the better chance you have to be considered for a nomination," he said. "But *Crimes and Misdemeanours* has done very well for a Woody Allen movie."

Asked to define a "Woody Allen movie," Landau replied immediately.

"It's a personal statement by a genius with wonderful artistic autonomy," he said. "He can call a studio and say, 'I'm ready, and they'll wire him the financing without looking at the script.'"

"I was fortunate to get the whole script when he asked me to play the role of the doctor in the movie. When I flew to New York to see him about the part, I had read eight of his previous screen-

plays, all of which have been published.

"Reading a script and seeing the completed movie are two very different things. When I read *Crimes and Misdemeanours* I thought it was better than any of the others. I loved the character he had in mind for me."

"I told Woody why I thought it was the best script he'd ever written. He was pleased until I said, 'but I see the character differently than you do.'"

"I saw the doctor more sympathetically than Woody did. Woody wrote him without a single redeeming quality — a liar, a cheater and he kills someone and gets away with it."

Singapore aims to be 'no smoke' nation

Smokers feeling hunted

SINGAPORE, (Reuters): Singapore's campaign to become a nation of non-smokers is making nicotine addicts feel hunted and worrying tobacco companies.

"I can't smoke at home because of my kids, I can't smoke at work because of my colleagues, now I can't smoke in public because of the government," a former chain-smoker said.

"I have been forced to cut down on my smoking," he lamented.

A ban on all forms of tobacco advertisements came into effect in the New Year forcing shopkeepers to hurriedly tear down their cigarette posters.

The law prohibits advertisements that show the name or trademark of tobacco products on vehicles, souvenirs, mementos or gifts.

It also prohibits the promotion and distribution of free samples of cigarettes or other tobacco products and their packing with other goods.

Cigarette ads have been banned for years in newspapers and on radio and television.

Last November Singapore extended its smoking

prohibitions to include air-conditioned supermarkets and department stores, indoor sports halls, restaurants and museums.

Previously, smoking was not allowed in public lifts, buses, amusement centres, cinemas, hospital, indoor skating rinks, fast-food restaurants and underground trains and stations.

A spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers and Importers Association of Singapore said it was still too early to judge to what extent the new measures would hurt sales.

He said on the whole Singapore's anti-smoking campaign had not really hurt profit margins because "smokers are still smoking."

"But growth has slowed down tremendously," he admitted.

He said the ban on advertisements could hurt new products because people would not know what was coming onto the market or the scientific advances made by the tobacco industry.

"The bottom line is that smokers are still smoking and some new smokers have come on stream."

Food shortage driving Indonesia's elephants to raid plantations

GUNUNG BATIN, Indonesia, (Reuters): Michael Priyono got onto the tame elephant just after midnight and chased two of its wild brothers through the dense Sumatran jungle. Thirty km (20 miles) later, the 37-year-old Indonesian government worker gave up.

"We'll chase them again tomorrow," he said. Priyono, who heads a programme to save elephants in the area, had hoped to capture the beasts after they strayed into a coconut plantation and return them to a government reserve.

Indonesia protects its elephants and has set aside large jungle areas for them. But a shortage of food is driving them into agricultural land where they compete with man for space.

Most of Indonesia's 5,000 elephants are in the huge eastern island of Sumatra.

At least 600 live in the southern part and

many have been foraging to plantations at night, knocking over coconut trees in search of the sweet sap inside.

By dawn, hundreds of trees lie strewn across the ground.

"This is just like a restaurant for them. It's frustrating to see day after day," said Ramoo Arsayaya, project executive of PT Multi Agro Corporation, which runs a private 10,000-hectare (24,700-acre) coconut and cassava plantation.

Arsayaya said elephants levelled at least 100 hectares (250 acres) of coconut palms in just two months at his plantation.

He said the trees would be replanted, but would take more than two years to produce coconuts.

Settlers in areas frequented by migrating elephants say most of their crops have been

destroyed and at least one person killed by elephants in the past year.

Getting the animals out of cultivated areas and back to reserves is not easy.

"Chasing them away is a very dangerous job. When those elephants get angry they chase back," Arsayaya said.

Priyono said: "Actually they have no instinct to kill but if they are in shock or desperate, anything could be destroyed, even a bulldozer."

His team from the government's Elephant Domestication Centre started work last November in the Gunung Batio area, where Multi Agro and three other private plantations have had elephant problems.

The team tries to capture the young elephants, which are easier to train, and take them to the domestication centre in Way

Kambas, 70 km (45 miles) away. The older animals are returned to the reserves.

"But this will only solve half the problem. The real problem is how to make sure those elephants never come back again," one co-ordinator said.

South Sumatra's jungles are big enough to hold more than double the actual number of elephants but there is not always enough food.

"Expanding and improving their habitat is a matter of funds. We haven't got that," he said.

Training the captured elephants is as arduous as managing the wild ones.

"We need at least four people to tame even a very young elephant," said Samak Sanchai, a Thai instructor who helped Indonesia's Forestry Ministry the Way Kambas centre in

1985.

Using chains and rattan to tie the elephants' legs and a small, sharp-tipped "gancho" hammer to sting them, instructors first teach the elephants to lift their legs, walk at a controlled pace and salute humans.

Then the schooling becomes more complicated.

"We train the elephants according to the needs of the school and sometimes according to their own talent," Sanchai told Reuters.

"This one is trained especially for catching his wild brothers. He can run up to 80 kilometres an hour (50 mph) if necessary," he said, stroking a 35-year-old Thai elephant, Tongbei, who came with him four years ago to set up the programme.

Like a boarding school, Way Kambas works to a strict routine. At 8 am the elephants are roused for an hour of training, then let loose in the reserve to look for lunch.

They rarely stray far and at 3 pm are back for their hour-long afternoon session. Bath-time follows, when the pachyderms group together for a companionable rest.

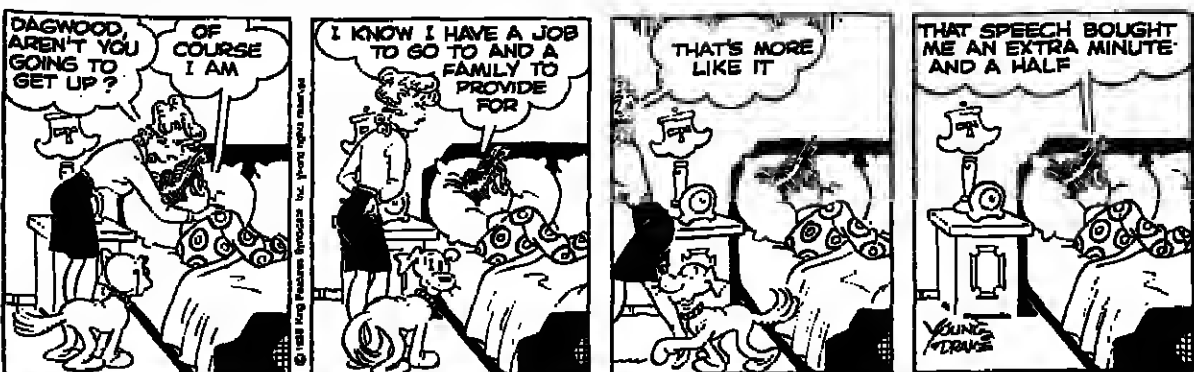
There are also sports sessions. Sanchai and his Indonesian colleagues have set up an elephant soccer club, which performs at festivals or local celebrations.

Way Kambas, on the edge of a 130-hectare (320-acre) sanctuary, is home to 38 elephants at a time. After six months some are bought by zoos, which pay 7.5 million rupiah (\$4,200) for an educated elephant.

"We cannot always find a good zoo which has enough money to buy the elephants. Some have to go on paying to take care of them," said an official at the Environment Ministry.

BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



NAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUM

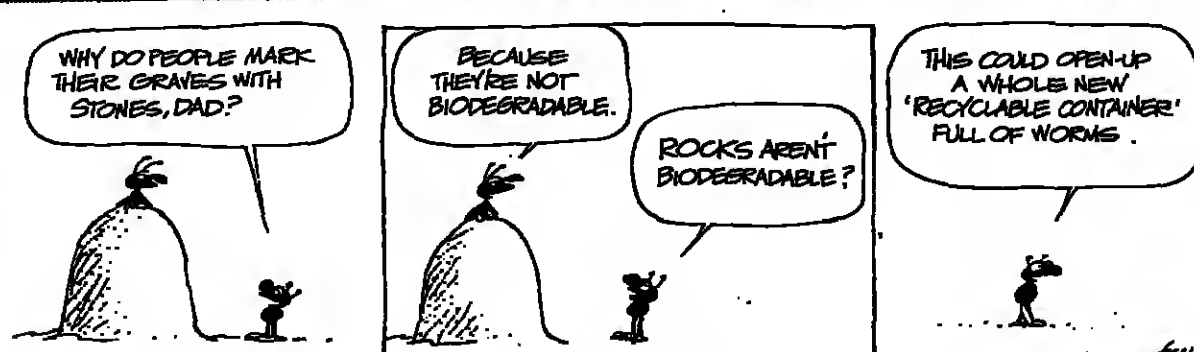
By Bill Hoest



BEETLEBAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP

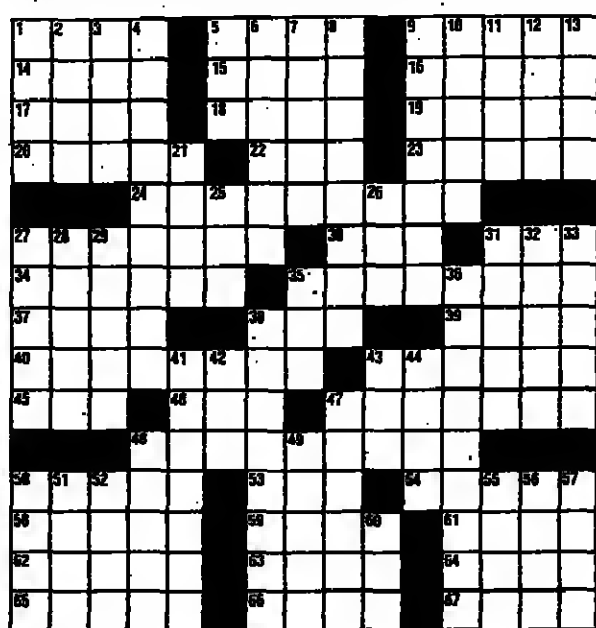


HE-MAN

By G. Ertel & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Game for equestrians

5 River at Munich

9 French revolutionary

14 Cupid

15 Cancel, to a printer

16 Famous violin maker

17 The Darlings' dog

18 Algerian seaport

19 Place for a hearty yodel

20 Prevailing tendency

22 From — Z

23 Vapid

24 Rumor mill

27 Charge an official with a crime

30 Chemical suffix

31 Book of the Bible: Abbr.

34 A martial art

35 And so forth

37 Geraint's wife

38 Caviar

39 MP's concern

40 Dupes

43 Most rational

45 Question

46 Daffy

47 Refugee

48 Mar

50 Sirad

53 Stout

54 Poetry muse

58 Lasso

59 Center

61 Angered

62 Medieval helmet

DOWN

1 Breathe hard

2 Persian poet

3 Solitary

4 Citrus beverage

5 Wedding words

6 Angel

7 Having wings

8 Do a decorator's job

9 Kind of idol

10 Chemical compound

11 — evis

12 Like — of bricks

13 Ceramic item

21 Mild oath

25 Super sport

26 Business abbr.

27 Former Japanese premier

28 Sewing mishap

31 More up-to-date

32 Jagged

33 Ceases

35 Dawn goddess

36 Mandarin

38 Embarrassed

41 Ape

42 Anatomical duct

43 Dallas inst.

44 River at Leeds

47 Female adviser

48 Lavishes love, with "on"

49 "Amo, amas, — e less"

50 Boast

51 Ireland

52 Plucky

55 Scotch solo

56 Big top, e.g.

57 Lyric writings

60 Building extension

61 Angered

62 Medieval helmet

63 "Speak no —"

64 Diamond number

65 Ganders

66 Transaction

67 Dinea

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144 Boast

145 Ireland

146 Plucky

147 Scotch solo

148 Big top, e.g.

149 Lyric writings

150 Building extension

151 Angered

152 Medieval helmet

153 "Speak no —"

154 Diamond number

155 Ganders

156 Transaction

157 Dinea

158 Breathe hard

159 Persian poet

160 Solitary

161 Citrus beverage

162 Wedding words

163 Angel

164 Having wings

165 Do a decorator's job

166 Kind of idol

167 Chemical compound

168 — evis

169 Like — of bricks

170 Ceramic item

171 Mild oath

172 Super sport

173 Business abbr.

174 Former Japanese premier

175 Sewing mishap

176 More up-to-date

177 Jagged

178 Ceases

179 Dawn goddess

180 Mandarin

181 Embarrassed

182 Ape

183 Anatomical duct

184 Dallas inst.

185 River at Leeds

186 Female adviser

187 Lavishes love, with "on"

188 "Amo, amas, — e less"

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MARKET PLACE

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Oilers head coach Glanville resigns

49ers, Browns reach finals

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7. (Reuters) The Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers cruised into next week's conference finals, while the Cleveland Browns squeaked in with National Football League playoff victories yesterday.

Joe Montana threw four first half touchdown passes to lead the 49ers to a crushing 41-13 defeat of the Vikings as the game hailed as a struggle between the League's number one offense and Minnesota's top-rated defence turned into a rout.

Cleveland was lucky to escape with a 34-30 victory over the Buffalo Bills that put them in the American Football Conference (AFC) championship for the third time in four years.

The Browns next face the winner of today's game between the

heavily favoured Denver Broncos and the Pittsburgh Steelers for the right to represent the AFC in the Super Bowl. The 49ers will host division rival Los Angeles Rams or the New York Giants in the National Football Conference (NFC) final.

Clay Matthews intercepted a pass by Buffalo's Jim Kelly at the one-yard line with three seconds left in the game that enabled Cleveland to hold on for a heart-stopping win in front of their home fans.

On the previous play, Ronnie Harmon dropped a Kelly pass in the end zone that would have capped a 74-yard drive and given Buffalo the win.

Following Kelly's fourth touchdown pass, kicker Scott Norwood slipped on the sandy turf and missed the extra point. With the deficit four points instead of three, the Bills were forced to go for a touchdown on their final drive rather than a field goal that could have levelled the game and sent it into sudden death overtime.

Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar threw three touchdown passes and kicker Matt Bahr added a pair of field goals.

However, the Browns' most spectacular play came late in the third quarter when Eric Metcalf answered a Buffalo score by returning a kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown that gave Cleveland a 31-21 lead.

Minnesota drew first blood in the NFC game when Rich Karlis kicked a 38-yard field goal to give the Vikings a 3-0 lead.

But Montana, who has led the 49ers to three Super Bowl titles in the 1980's, immediately went to work and connected with star receiver Jerry Rice on a 72-yard touchdown pass and San Francisco was on its way.

Montana picked apart the Vikings defence in the second quarter with three more touch-

down strikes that gave San Francisco a 27-3 lead at the half.

"I think the big key here is you have to give a lot of credit to the offensive line. They just gave me time to throw the ball," Montana said.

San Francisco added two touchdowns in the second half with the help of a pair of interceptions, while Minnesota never threatened.

The Vikings were already trailing 41-6 when they came up with their lone touchdown of the day.

Jerry Glanville ended several weeks of speculation yesterday when he announced his resignation as head coach of the National Football League's Houston Oilers.

Glanville, who established the Houston Astrodome as the "House of pain" for the tough brand of football he preached, said at a news conference that he was stepping down because he and team owner Bud Adams wanted "to remain friends for life."

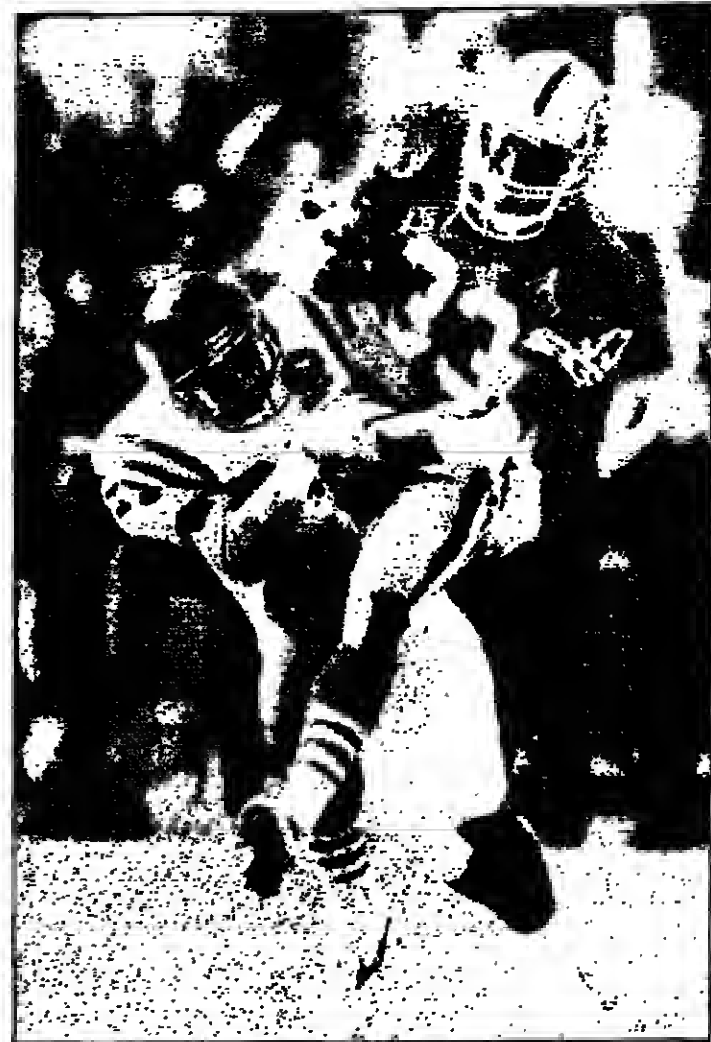
"We concurred this was probably the best way to do that," Glanville told reporters.

Adams broke down and cried during the emotional news conference when he announced that Glanville was leaving the Oilers.

Glanville, who took over as Houston's head coach during the 1985 season when Hugh Campbell was fired, came under fire from fans and local media after his team failed to win their division title and lost last week's wild card playoff game to the underdog Pittsburgh Steelers.

Earlier this week, with Adams' permission, Glanville interviewed for the Atlanta Falcons vacant head coaching post.

In four full seasons as head coach Glanville led the Oilers into the playoffs three times. This season the team finished with a disappointing 9-8 record, losing its last three games.



49ers' Roger Craig (right) is dragged down by Vikings' Brad Edwards. (Reuters wirephoto)

England name team for Ireland match

LONDON, Jan. 7. (Reuters) England Rugby Union selectors yesterday recalled props Paul Rendall and Jeff Probyn for the first Five Nations Championship game against Ireland at Twickenham on January 20.

They replace Mark Linnett and Andy Mullins in the only changes to the side who beat Fiji in England's last international in November.

Rendall and Probyn were omitted from the Fiji Test because neither had returned to regular, full-time rugby after going to South Africa around the start of the season with the World XV.

The selectors had hoped Mike Tague would prove a reliable number eight to replace the injured Dean Richards. But Tague is not match-fit, so David Egerton keeps his place.

Tague, who also went to South Africa, has struggled through the domestic season to recover from a shoulder injury that first affected him on the British Lions tour to Australia last summer.

But he was named as substitute. The one newcomer to the international squad is replacement full back Alan Buzzard, the Cambridge University captain.

The team: Simon Hodgkinson, Rory Underwood, Jeremy Guscott, Will Carling (captain), Mark Bailey, Rob Andrew, Richard Hill, Paul Rendall, Brian Moore, Jeff Probyn, Wade Dooley, Paul Ackford, Michael Skinner, David Egerton, Peter Winterbottom.

Replacement: Alan Buzzard, Simon Halliday, Steve Bates, Mark Linnett (Moseley), John Oliver, Mike Tague.

The Irish selectors have made four changes to the side beaten by New Zealand last November, including one new cap — prop Gary Halpin.

Michael Kiernan on the right wing, Paul Russell at fly half, and Des Fitzgerald in the front row are the other additions.

The choice of prolific place-kicker Kiernan is no surprise. He replaces Ken Hooks, who only came into the side against the All Blacks because Kiernan was injured.

Russell, capped once, takes over from Australian-born Brian Smith. Fitzgerald's return was expected.

Team: Philip Rainey, Michael Kiernan, Brendan, Mullin, David Irwin, Keith Crossan, Paul Russell, Leslie Ahearne, Des Fitzgerald, Stephen Smith, Gary Halpin, Donald Lenthian, William Anderson (captain), Philip Matthews, Patrick O'Hara, Noel Mannion.

1982 and at lightweight four years ago, failed a routine urine test after winning the middleweight division at England's October trials for this month's Auckland Games. Samples showed he had an unacceptable level of the hormone testosterone.

Willey is the first British Olympic or Commonwealth Games athlete to be found guilty of drug-taking since Kenneth Brown was stripped of his judo bronze medal at the 1988 Olympic Games.



Darryl: four for 22



Jayantilal: 61 not out

Cantt lost their skipper Shariq when the score was only 17 runs but the next wicket stand produced 25 runs. The fall of three quick wickets at this stage saw the match become exciting as Sialkot applied more pressure.

Cantt batsmen, however, stuck to their task and got past the target for the loss of seven wickets. Amer hit 27 while Taufique scored 13, Siraj 17, Darryl 11 and Abbas 10. Darryl took the Man of the Match award.

For Sialkot, Ahmed and Riaz took two wickets each while Arshad and Abid picked up one each.

The second match saw Rangers put Prince in to bat after winning the toss. After only three overs, Prince lost their opener Asad, caught and bowled by Sharma.

Shahid kept on batting confidently and seemed to be heading for a big score when Jayantilal had him caught by Fayyaz in the extra-cover region for 34.

Jayantilal soon struck another blow when he bowled Shahbaz for 40.

Istiaq carried on for Prince at this point and took all the Rangers bowlers to task. He hit one six and five fours as he scored 51 and took his team to a total of 179.

Jayantilal did the most damage with three wickets for 30 runs while Manzar took two for 27. Tilak Sharma, Abid and Sajid had a share in the spoils by taking one wicket each.

Rangers opened their innings through Khalid and Amjad who played some delightful strokes. The openers stayed ahead of the run-rate but Khalid lost his wicket after scoring 19 runs when he was bowled by Asad.

Pillai was bowled by Naseem for 18 but Jayantilal put the issue beyond doubt by hammering all the Prince bowlers to all parts of the ground. He remained unbeaten on 61 as Rangers went past the target with six wickets in hand. Jayantilal got some good support from Abid who remained unbeaten on 26. Rangers scored 182 for four.

For Prince, Naseem took three wickets for 20 runs.

Nikolic keeps chess lead

HASTINGS, England, Jan. 7. (Reuters) Yugoslav grandmaster Predrag Nikolic put up a stubborn defence yesterday to draw with England's Murray Chandler and keep his half-point lead in the Hastings Premier Chess Tournament.

Nikolic, playing black, came under strong pressure but steered the Englishman into a queen and pawn endgame which was drawn after 36 moves.

World championship semi-finalist Artur Yusupov of the Soviet Union won a pawn against Boris Gulko of the United States but was held to a draw in 58 moves.

Both other games in round eight of the tournament were lacklustre draws.

Results of round eight: Jon Speelman (England) drew with Michael Adams (England).

Sergei Dolmatov (Soviet Union) drew with Kevin Spraggett (Canada).

Boris Gulko (US) drew with Artur Yusupov (Soviet Union).

Murray Chandler (England) drew with Predrag Nikolic (Yugoslavia).

Standings: Nikolic 5-1/2; Dolmatov 5; Spraggett 4-1/2; Gulko 4; Yusupov, Adams 3-1/2; Speelman, Chandler 3.

Dumars takes Pistons past Knicks

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, Jan. 7. (AP) Joe Dumars scored five of his 29 points during a 15-5 fourth-quarter run last night that carried the Detroit Pistons to their fifth straight victory, 117-106 over the New York Knicks.

Dumars scored 10 points in the fourth quarter and made 13 of 18 foul shots in the game. Isiah Thomas added 20 points for Detroit.

Patrick Ewing scored 29 points for the Knicks, who saw their four-game road winning streak end.

Celtics 102, Bulls 88. Robert Parish made up for the absence of Larry Bird with 29 points and 13 rebounds, leading Boston Celtics over Washington.

Reggie Lewis, who started in place of Bird because of his sprained left ankle, had 21 points for the Celtics, who snapped a five-game losing streak at Capital Centre dating back to Dec 15, 1987.

Washington, which has lost seven of its last eight games, was led by Jeff Malone with 33 points.

Hornets 117, Pacers 111. Dell Curry hit two late baskets, including a 22-footer with one second on the shot clock and

1:03 remaining for Charlotte against Indiana.

The victory was the first this season by the Hornets against a team with a winning record.

Curry scored 17 of his 21 points to the second half. Armon Gilliam had a season-high 28 points and Rex Chapman added 27 for Charlotte, which won for the third time in four games.

Hawks 105, Nets 96. John Long, Alexander Volkov and Kevin Willis scored three points each during a 9-0 run early in the fourth quarter that lifted Atlanta over New Jersey.

The Nets, dropping their fifth consecutive game, led 84-80 before a layup by Long — playing his first game for the Hawks after signing a 10-day contract started the rally with 11:24 to play. Long hit a free throw just under one minute later and Volkov converted a three-point play with 10:01 to go.

Willis followed with another three-point play to give Atlanta an 89-84 lead with 9:26 remaining. New Jersey got no closer than three red of the way.

Moses Malone led the Hawks with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Chris Morris had 19 points for the Nets.

Cavaliers 123, Magic 112. Rookie Chuckie Brown scored a season-high 30 points and Steve Kerr scored all of his career-high 19 in the fourth quarter, leading Cleveland over Orlando.

Brown, a second-round pick from North Carolina State, hit 12 of 17 shots to finish nearly 24 points over his average.

Kerr's previous career high was 15 points and he beat that by hitting five 3-pointers and four free throws in the fourth period. He was 12 points over his average.

Terry Catledge led Orlando with 27 points, and Otis Smith had 19.

Spurs 109, Timberwolves 96. David Robinson, Terry Cummings and Willie Anderson scored 22 points apiece as San Antonio matched last season's victory total by defeating Minnesota.

The Spurs are 21-7 with 3 and 1-2 months left in the season after finishing a franchise-worst 21-61 last year.

Rockets 124, 76ers 119, OT. Akeem Olajuwon had 29 points and 15 rebounds, and his three-point play with 22 seconds left in overtime sparked Houston over Philadelphia.

With the score tied 119,119, Olajuwon put Houston ahead for good when he was fouled while hitting a twisting 10-foot jumper. He made the free throw and Otis Thorpe added two more with three seconds left.

Bucks 118, Bulls 111. Jack Sikma scored 21 points and led a third-quarter surge as Milwaukee Bucks beat Chicago to snap an eight-game losing streak against their Central Division rival.

The Bucks' victory was their first at home over the Bulls since February 1987.

Michael Jordan led the Bulls with 35 points despite an injured knee.

Jazz 123, Nuggets 120 OT. Karl Malone capped a 48-point performance with a three-point play with eight seconds left in overtime, lifting Utah over Denver.

Results: Boston 102, Washington 96; Cleveland 123, Orlando 112; Charlotte 117, Indiana 110; Atlanta 105, New Jersey 96; Detroit 117, New York 106; San Antonio 109, Minnesota 96; Houston 124, Philadelphia 119; Milwaukee 118, Chicago 121; Utah 123, Denver 120; Golden State 133, LA Lakers 131; Seattle 120, Phoenix 110; Portland 124, Sacramento 121.

Azinger hits 69 to grab 3rd round lead



Azinger keeps his eyes on the ball as he blasts out of the sandtrap. (Reuters wirephoto)

CARLSBAD, California, Jan. 7. (AP) Paul Azinger took advantage of a late lapse by Ian Baker-Finch yesterday to take a two-shot lead after the third round of the Tournament of Champions, the kickoff event of the 1990 PGA Tour.

Azinger, playing on his 30th birthday, was plagued by erratic putting but managed a 3-under-par 69, leaving him with a total of 203 strokes, 13 under par, after 54 holes.

Baker-Finch, an Australian who held a one-stroke lead going into the round, had to work hard to salvage a round of par 72. He takes a 205 total into today's final round of the winners-only competition.

The difference came in an extremely difficult home stretch over the last four holes at La Costa.

Azinger and Baker-Finch, playing in the final two, were tied when they went to the tee on the 15th. Baker-Finch played those final four in 18, twice one-putting for par. Azinger needed only 16 shots over the same stretch.

British Open champion Mark Caldecave moved into contention with a 68 that left him at 206. He was followed by Mark O'Meara at 207 and Scott Hoch at 208.

O'Meara closed with a 65, the best round of the tournament, which is limited to players who won PGA events during the 1989 season. Hoch had a 71.

Australians Greg Norman and Wyne Grady were next at 209. Norman shot a 71, Grady a 72.

George Archer had the same total, seven under par, and led the separate but simultaneous competition for 1989 Senior Tour winners by a whopping seven strokes.

"The only reason I play golf is to try to win tournament. I'm going out tomorrow and try to make all the birdsies I can, maybe do something spectacular like beat the young kids," Archer said after his 67.

"I'm not counting on it, but that would be fun."

"If I do, I'm going to say, 'okay, you take the check, I'll take the trophy. And if they don't let me have the trophy, I'll go by myself one.'"

Archer, of course, is competing in an entirely different tournament and is not eligible for prize money or placing among the regular Tour participants.

Baker-Finch's decline began on the 15th, where a poor drive put him in trouble and he made bogey. That broke the tie and banded Azinger a one-stroke lead.

After a pair of pars on the 16th, Azinger hit his third shot to point-blank range on the par-5 17th and made birdie while Baker-Finch had to one-putt from about 15 feet for par, putting him two shots back.

On the final hole, Baker-Finch was bunkered in two and again had one-putt par. Azinger had a chance to make it a three-shot advantage but missed a 6-foot birdie putt.

Cantt and Rangers outplay opponents

CANTT Cricket Club and Rangers Cricket Club scored easy victories in the Honda Cup and Burud Trophy matches respectively on Friday.

In the first match Cantt beat Sialkot Cricket Club by three wickets while Rangers brushed aside Prince Cricket Club by six wickets.

Sialkot opted to bat first after winning the toss against Cantt but they were quickly in trouble, losing their opener Mohsin when the score was only five.

Sialkot received another jolt a few minutes later when they lost Abid when the score reached nine. Arshad tried to lift his team out of trouble by hitting two fours but he missed the line of the ball on the next delivery and saw his off-stump being uprooted.

Skipper Fawaz and Ahmed put their heads down and took Sialkot to 91. The other batsmen, however, failed to get on top of the accurate Cantt bowling and the whole side was out for 110 in the 23rd over.

Ahmed was the top scorer with 25 while Fawaz hit 19 and Arshad 15. For Cantt, Darryl took four wickets for 22 runs while Abbas got three for 18, Taufiq two for 17 and Shariq one wicket.

Exercise beneficial; say health experts

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. (AP) You may never win gold in the marathon — but experts say you could at least walk toward better health.

Researchers say it may take far less exercise than people had thought to lower the risk of heart disease — especially for the highest risk group, middle-aged men. They want to encourage people to literally take the first step.

"Doing something is better than doing nothing," says epidemiologist Steven N. Blair of the Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas. "Standing is better than sitting, moving around is better than standing."

"Lower intensity exercise — brisk walking on a regular basis — provides a fair amount of benefits," says Dr. William L. Haskell, deputy director of the Stanford Centre for Research in disease prevention, in California.

Blair and Haskell agree that the highest-risk men are those who do virtually nothing.

"There are considerable health benefits from getting out of the bottom group into the moderately fit category," Blair says. "There may be further benefits in the high-fitness category."

Haskell says the men he studied changed their risk factors in key areas — lowering their body weight and blood pressure, while raising their HDL cholesterol, the so-called "good" cholesterol that is associated with a decreased risk of heart disease.

Haskell says his subjects did it with a programme of brisk walking — 30 to 40 minutes at 3.1 to 4.1 miles per hour (5.6 to 7.2 kilometres per hour) every other day. This much exercise should put your rate in the 110-125 beats per minute range, or 60 per cent of capacity.

That's significantly below what experts have considered the minimum threshold for a training benefit to kick in — 70 to 80 per cent of capacity. Haskell says this range is based primarily on studies of comparatively more fit college students by researchers who wanted to detect improvement over comparatively shorter time periods.

Vigorous Blair and Haskell say the training threshold concept may be misleading, because smaller doses of exercise can produce some improvement.

And, says Haskell, the prospect of having to gasp and strain their way to better health at a 70-80 per cent target range has kept a lot of people from trying.

"When you look at the population over age 45, using current guidelines on exercise, 30 to 40 minutes at 70 to 80 per cent of capacity, three times a week — no more than 20 per cent of men and ten per cent of women meet that criteria," he says.

"The public may be thinking, 'how little can I do and still get away with it,'" Blair says. He says they may need less than they think.

And if you can't spare 30 to 40 minutes in a lump, Haskell says, you can break it into 10-minute segments. He says that his research indicates you'll still get health benefits, and they may be nearly as great.

However, neither researcher suggests that people who are doing more should cut back. Both say there is more benefit in being more fit.

Blair says vigorous exercise can relieve stress and make you better able to enjoy other kinds of outdoor sports.

He defines high fitness in men as jogging two miles (3.2 kilometres) in less than 20 minutes, and high fitness in women as doing the same in 20 to 24 minutes.

And he says that, if walking or jogging doesn't appeal to you, then you might find some other form of aerobic exercise that can make you at least moderately fit.

Ewald resigns as president

EAST BERLIN, Jan. 7. (Reuters) The president of the East German National Olympic Committee, Manfred Ewald, criticised for an elitist attitude towards sport, resigned yesterday, the official ADN news agency said.

A meeting of the national committee elected vice-president Gunther Heinze to succeed Ewald, who had been president since 1973.

"With his resignation he drew the consequences of erroneous decisions on sport, for which he was largely responsible. In recent times criticism had grown of his leadership style and his attitude to the process of democratic rebirth," ADN said.

Yesterday's committee meeting also supported initiatives to hold the Olympic Games in both halves of Berlin in 2000 or 2004.

Vatanen stays in front

PARIS, Jan 7, (Reuters): The longest stage of the Paris-Dakar rally, 780 kms over the desert of Niger, turned into a nightmare yesterday for dozens of motorcyclists and car drivers who lost their way in the monotonous sands of the Tenere Desert.

The day was disastrous for the Yamaha motorcyclists, as French riders Cyril Neveu and Stephane Peterhansel were forced to abandon the rally with mechanical failures.

Italian Edi Orioli won the day's motorcycling race, maintaining first place overall, despite having covered more than 180 kms in addition to the length of the stage as drivers searched for the correct path through the desert.

Japan's Kenjiro Shinozuka scored Mitsubishi's first stage victory in the car rally, although veteran Finnish Peugeot driver Ari Vatanen kept the overall lead despite finishing seventh after also losing his way.

Vatanen still had almost two hours advance overall when drivers arrived in the Niger town of Agadez yesterday evening from N'Guigmi, almost half-way through the rally. Peugeot had to be content with second place through Frenchman Philippe Wambargue, and Lada driver Jacky Ickx was third.

Many riders and drivers were still missing when night fell, and several had set off emergency beacons to alert rescue services. Included among those were Neveu, five times motorcycle champion of the rally, whose gear box broke up 50 kms (30 miles) into yesterday's stage.

Yamaha's honour was saved by Spanish rider Carlos Mas-Samora and Frenchman Gilles Picard, who finished second and third respectively.

Standings

Cars:
1. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Peugeot, 15 hrs 54 minutes 55 seconds; 2. Philippe Wambargue (France) Peugeot, one hour 49 minutes 55 seconds behind; 3. Bjorn Waldegard (Sweden) Peugeot, 1:56:09; 4. Alain Ambrosino (France) Peugeot, 4:23:15; 5. Andrew Cowan (Britain) Mitsubishi, 4:48:13; 6. Salvadoro Serva (Spain) Range Rover, 5:41:55; 7. Kenjiro Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi, 5:51:24; 8. Miguel Prieto (Spain) Nissan, 5:54:28; 9. Hubert Auriol (France) Bugatti, 6:22:46; 10. Henri Pescarolo (France) Range Rover, 7:27:37.

Motorcycles

1. Edi Orioli (Italy) Cagiva, 48:26:16; 2. Carlos Mas-Samora (Spain) Yamaha, 1:09:46 behind; 3. Gilles Picard (France) Yamaha, 2:23:21; 4. Thierry Mayaud (France) Yamaha, 2:30:10; 5. Alessandro de Petri (Italy) Cagiva, 2:39:36; 6. Gilles Picard (France) Yamaha, 2:43:43; 7. Gilles Lalay (France) Suzuki, 3:09:56; 8. Jorge Antares (France) Cagiva, 3:10:25; 9. Gaston Rahier (France) Suzuki, 4:46:43; 10. Luigi Medardo (Italy) Gilera, 5:22:04.

Chen hands English Open title to Yu

MANCHESTER, England, Jan 7, (UPI): Chen Xinhua, the Chinese defender who now lives in England, Saturday conceded the English Open table tennis title to China's Yu Shentong because of a back injury.

Chen, 29, saved a match point on his way to a dramatic semifinal victory over Jorg Rosskopf of West Germany, but was in such pain he handed the title to Yu.

"My seven-and-a-half-month-old son cried all night," he said. "So I had to get up at 5.30 and go to sleep downstairs on the sofa. I think that is what caused the problem."

Despite his withdrawal, Cheng, who wants to be named to England's regular international team, put in a strong claim for a place with his performance in the tournament.

He wooed the large crowd with his ready smile, brilliant play and amazing range of serves as he beat the tall, stern-faced West German 21-11, 22-15, 16-21, 16-21, 23-21.

Chen, who recently married an English girl, showed the first sign of his injury at 16-11 in the second game. The pain clearly became worse during the following games but in the decider, after buckling on a supporting belt, he made a remarkable recovery from 15-19.

He saved a match point at 20-21 with a crunching forehand and then finished off Rosskopf with a service winner.

"I'm very disappointed," said Chen, a former world No. 4. "It is a ligament problem."

"I really want to play for England, and I think I am playing better now than I was at the world championships in the 1987. I am not as fit, but I will be."

Exchange deal

LONDON, Jan 7, (Reuters): Leicester striker Wayne Clarke has joined English First Division soccer club Manchester City in a £650,000 (\$1 million) exchange deal.

The Second Division side got Manchester City forward David Oldfield and £150,000 (\$240,000).

Pakistan all out for 257

Foley hits maiden ton

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 7, (Reuters): Opener Geoff Foley hit a maiden first class century on his Queensland debut to leave the home side in a commanding position against Pakistan on the second day of their four-day cricket match today.

Foley, who was drafted into the Sheffield Shield squad last month, became the first Queensland player since Martin Kentin October 1974 to score a century on his debut.

At the close, Queensland were 203 for two in reply to Pakistan's first innings of 257 with Foley on 101 and captain Greg Ritchie (45). The pair have shared an unbroken third wicket partnership of 98.

Ritchie admitted the inclusion of Foley had been risky.

"I suppose it was a bit of a gamble, but we had in mind that a right and left-handed opening combination could cause Pakistan some headaches."

Pakistan opener Shoaib



Ritchie, batting on 45

Mohammad dropped the only chance Foley gave in his unfinished 328-minute stay at the crease, a knee height catch square of the wicket off Waqar Younus when Foley was on 46.

The home side made short

work of the Pakistan tail when play resumed this morning, allowing the visitors to add just three runs to their overnight total.

Mick Polzin grabbed the wickets of Younus (1) and Aaqib Javed (0) to finish with five for 56, his third five-wicket haul in just eight first class matches.

Queensland started well and had reached 35 before Peter Cantrell (19) attempted to drive Younus over mid-wicket but succeeded only in bowling out to Abdul Qadir.

Foley and Stuart Law (30) forged a 70-run partnership for the second wicket before Law edged Qadir to Imran Khan at first slip when attempting to cut.

Ritchie joined Foley with the total at 105 for two and the pair saw the day out.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first Innings (overnight 257 for eight)
Asim Malik c Healy b Polzin..... 5
Shoaib Mohammad c Foley b Pol-

zin..... 13
Mansoor Akhtar c Healy b Rack-

mann..... 14
Javed Miandad c Healy b Storey..... 77

Saeed Anwar c Healy b Polzin..... 28
Ejaz Ahmed c Smart b Storey..... 44

Imran Khan c Healy b Carew..... 20
Salim Younis not out..... 35

Abdul Qadir b Carew..... 0
Waqar Younus c Clifford b Polzin..... 1

Aaqib Javed c Clifford b Polzin..... 0
Extras (lb-11 nb-8 b-1)..... 20

Total..... 257
Fall of wickets: 1-202 263-57 4-109

5-191 6-192 7-246 8-250 9-257
Bowling: Polzin 24-8-56-5, Carew

16-5-43-2, Rackemann 21-4-47-1 (4nb), Storey 17-6-45-2 (3nb), Can-

trell 12-1-40-0, Foley 6-1-14-0 (1nb)
QUEENSLAND first Innings..... 19

G. Foley not out..... 101
S. Law c Imran b Qadir..... 30

G. Ritchie not out..... 45
Extras (lb-4 nb-3 w-1)..... 8

Fall of wickets: 1-35 2-105
To bat: S. Storey, P. Clifford, C. Smart, I. Healy, C. Rackemann, M. Polzin, P. Carew.

Bowling to date: Imran Khan 19-4-43-0, Aaqib Javed 20-6-41-0 (1w, 3nb), Waqar Younus 13-2-41-1, Abdul Qadir 29-5-74-1

Youth dies after being hit by ball

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 7, (AP): A youth died after being hit in the chest by a cricket ball during a competitive game yesterday at Dubbo, 250 miles (400 kilometres) northwest of Sydney, police said today.

Michael Adam Lemon, 17, was hit by a ball which bounced off the pitch while he was batting in a match between two local teams at Dubbo oval.

An autopsy would be conducted to determine the cause of death, a Dubbo police spokesman said.

Lemon showed no initial signs of injury and bent down to pick up the ball which dropped at his feet. He slumped to the ground shortly afterwards.

"The ambulance was called and he was taken to Dubbo Base Hospital where he died a short time later," the police spokesman said.

Leeward slam 326 for nine

BRIDGETOWN, Jan 7, (Reuters): Close of play scores on the second day of four-day Red Stripe Cup cricket matches yesterday.

In Bridgetown: Barbados 185, Leeward Island 326 for nine.
In Kingston: Jamaica 203 and 66 for three, Trinidad and Tobago 205 (Patrick Patterson seven for 53).

In Kingstown, St Vincent: Windward Island 162, Guyana 271 for four (Andrew Jackman 114, Carl Hooper 58).

Tasmania take 178-run lead

DEVONPORT, Australia, Jan 7, (Reuters): Speedy half-centuries from Sri Lankan batsmen Hashan Tillekeratne and Asoka de Silva helped push the three-day cricket match against Tasmania towards a result today.

At the close of the second day the Tasmanians were 175 for six after the Sri Lankans had declared at lunch at 207 for six in reply to Tasmania's first innings of 210 for one declared.

Forcing the ball from the very first delivery after resuming at 86 for three, Tillekeratne went on to record his highest first class score of 74 while De Silva was unbeaten on 66 when acting captain Aravinda de Silva declared. The Sri Lankans added 121 in the session to be only three short of the Tasmanian total.

With Champaka Ramanayake and Nilantha Ratnayake bowling well the Tasmanians then struggled for runs and managed only 75 between lunch and tea.

Wicketkeeper Richard Soule

opened with Richard Bennett in place of Greg Shipperd but was back in the pavilion for four. He was followed by Jamie Cox (31) and Rod Tucker (10).

Bennett and captain Dirk Wellham forced the pace after tea before Bennett was dismissed for a timely 60 with his place in the team under some pressure.

But Wellham was bowled by Ranjith Madurasinghe for 27 without addition to the total and admitted later he would have liked more wickets in hand going into the last day.

Scoreboard

TASMANIA first Innings 210 for one declared (D. Bennett 133 not out, G. Shipperd 57 not out)
SRI LANKA first Innings (overnight 86 for three)

A. Samarasekera c Robertson b Gilbert..... 3

G. Wickremasinghe hit wicket b Gilbert..... 24

H. Tillekeratne b Tucker..... 74

S. Jayasuriya c Shipperd b Campbell..... 2

Asoka de Silva not out..... 66

C. Ramanayake c Soule b Tucker..... 3

Veletta slams century

SYDNEY, Jan 7, (Reuters): Opener Mike Veletta became only the fourth Western Australian to carry his bat in a Sheffield Shield match when he completed an unbeaten century against New South Wales today.

Veletta, 97 not out overnight, reached 110 in six and a half hours when Western Australia's last wicket fell at 262 on the second day. They had resumed at 223 for nine.

New South Wales set off at a cracking pace in reply, openers Steve Small and Test opener Mark Taylor completing a century partnership in 113 minutes off 27.1 overs.

Small scored 70 and Taylor 67 as New South Wales moved on to 243 for five by the close.

In Adelaide, Victoria's middle-order batsmen plundered a weak South Australia attack, taking their side from 312 for five overnight to 500 for eight declared — the third time in five matches South Australia have conceded 500 in an innings.

Tony Dodemaide and Wayne Phillips each hit 73 and Test pace bowler Merv Hughes an unbeaten 60, his highest score for Victoria.

South Australia replied with 128 for one.

Scores

In Sydney: Western Australia 262 (Mike Veletta 110 not out, Geoff Lawson four for 51), New South Wales 243 for five (Steve Small 70, Mark Taylor 67).

In Adelaide: Victoria 500 for



Mike Veletta

eight declared (Jamie Siddons 159, Wayne Phillips 73, Tony Dodemaide 73, Merv Hughes 60 not out), South Australia 128 for one.

Virtual unknowns bask in unexpected glory

LONDON, Jan 7, (Reuters): First Division players walked off with their heads bowed while virtual unknowns basked in unexpected glory after yesterday's third round of the English Football Association (FA) Cup.

Coventry, one of the classier sides, were blasted by manager John Sillit after being bundled out by lowly opposition for the second successive year.

"There are no excuses whatsoever. We were playing the ball square and backwards all the time. It was a complete disaster," Sillit said after the shock 1-0 defeat at Third Division Northampton.

Coventry, winners in 1987, fell at the same stage last year to Minor League Sutton United.

Sillit was particularly angry because his players had made him eat his pre-match words. He had said: "That 2-1 defeat at Sutton was out in inoculation against it happening again."

Steve Berry, whose 42nd-minute goal sank Coventry, said: "I have had some good times in football with my previous clubs but this must beat them all."

League leaders and Cup holders Liverpool must replay with Swansea on Tuesday, in no small measure because of a young goalkeeper who has been none too popular at the Third Division club.

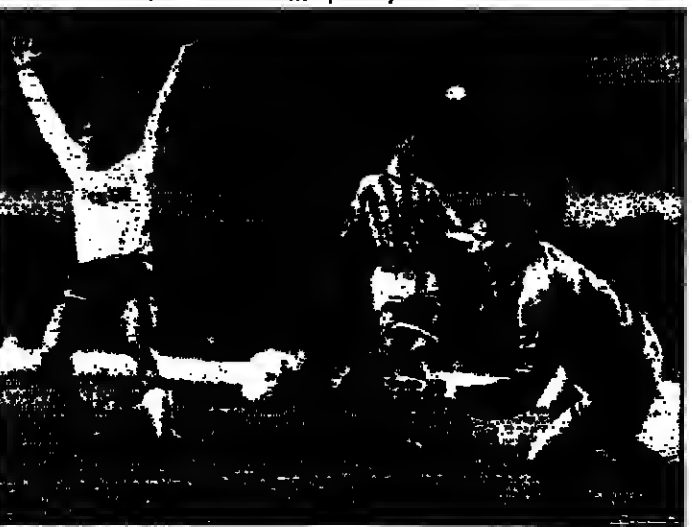
Lee Bracey made several good saves, particularly from internationals Ian Rush, Steve Nicol and Steve McMahon to keep the score 0-0.

Manager Ian Evans said: "Lee needs a pat on the back. He's taken some flack from all quarters, including myself."

Nineteen-year-old substitute Paul Hiron of Fourth Division Torquay scored with his first



Tottenham striker Paul Stewart (centre) is squeezed out of action by Southampton defenders Jason Dodd (right) and Kevin Moore. (Rauter wirephoto)



Gary Lineker (left) of Tottenham appeals for a penalty which was not awarded while Southampton goalie Tim Flowers savas the ball.

touch of the ball to send three-times winners West Ham of the Second Division crashing 1-0. He later said he was scared to

even touch the ball for fear of making a mistake. "I was a bit nervous because the lads were doing well and a slight mistake



Chelsea's Clive Wilson (foreground), goalie Dave Beasant (obscured) and Crewe's Chris Cutler fight for the ball. (Rauter wirephoto)



Chelsea's Clive Wilson (foreground), goalie Dave Beasant (obscured) and Crewe's Chris Cutler fight for the ball. (Rauter wirephoto)

could have put them out."

Linden Jones had a nightmare start for Third Division Reading as his error allowed Sunderland



Skiing competition

Edgar Grosjeon of France makes his way around a mogul towards first place during the second day of the World Cup freestyle skiing competition on Saturday at Mount Gabriel, Quebec. (Reuter wirephoto)

Real rout Atletico

Valencia beat Celta

MADRID, Jan 7, (Reuters): Spanish League champions Real Madrid crushed Atletico Madrid 3-1 last night in a game riddled with yellow cards.

Referee Jose Enriquez, a neutral Catalan, handed out 12 yellow cards, eight for Real, and a red to Argentine World Cup back Oscar Ruggeri in the 83rd minute.

Real scored two goals in the first seven minutes and dominated the first half, imposing their rhythm and confusing Atletico, who had not lost for eight games.

After halftime, Atletico improved but Real soon held sway again with their better tactics and technique.

Real international midfielder Martin Vazquez scored the first two goals, first with a powerful kick in the second minute and then taking advantage of a mistake by Atletico goalkeeper Agustin Elduayen, who dropped a ball he should have held in the seventh minute.

In the 49th minute Eugenio Bustingorri scored for Atletico with a direct free kick.

Real reassured themselves and West German midfielder Bernd Schuster dribbled through Atletico's defence and beat Elduayen in the 75th minute.

The game in Real's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium started with a ceremony for Alfredo Di Stefano, who played with Real in the 1950s and 60s. Di Stefano, who was awarded the club's greatest honour, the 'Laureate', will become the club's technical assistant next week.

Valencia, playing at home and unbeaten for the last 14 weeks, grabbed second place with 24 points, five points below Madrid, after beating lowly Celta 2-0.

Celta, second last in the table, defended well in the first half but Valencia seized command after the break.

The goals came in the 52nd minute from Fernando Gomez and in the 86th from Eloy Olaya, set up by Brazilian striker Toni Gomes.

The win coupled with Atletico's defeat left Valencia second on the table by a point over Atletico, five points behind Real.

current Reading coach Ian Porterfield.

Minor League Darlington earned a replay at home to Fourth Division Cambridge but Whitley Bay fell to Rochdale, also of the Fourth Division.

First Division Wimbledon, 1988 winners, lost 2-0 at West Bromwich Albion. Goals by Gary Robson and Kevin Bartlett gave the Second Division side their first win in the competition for six years.

Luton, one from bottom of the First Division, crashed 4-1 at Brighton, who won at home for the first time in three months.

Other First Division sides were glad to secure replays after being pressed all the way.

Exeter manager Terry Cooper said he felt mixed emotions after the Fourth Division leaders drew 1-1 at home to Norwich. Daran Rowbotham put Exeter ahead five minutes from time but Norwich were level again within 30 seconds through Robert Fleck.

Chelsea also drew 1-1 at home to Third Division Crewe thanks to a late goal by defender Steve Clarke.

Blackburn drew 2-2 with Aston Villa in a tie loaded with history. The Second Division side, who won the cup six times in the first half of the century equalised twice against in-form First Division Villa, record seven times winners.

Four First Division teams were happy after making the fourth round in one attempt.

Champions Arsenal won 1-0 at Second Division strugglers Stoke, while Crystal Palace and Sheffield Wednesday both fought back for 2-1 victories over Second Division Portsmouth and Wolverhampton, respectively.

Plewinski swims to 100m win

PERTH, Australia, Jan 7, (Reuters): Frenchwoman Catherine Plewinski outprinted a strong international field to win the 100 metres freestyle event on the third and final day of the World Cup swimming meeting in Perth today.

Plewinski clocked 56.67 seconds, the 19th fastest effort over the past year, and said afterwards the time had buoyed her hopes for the World Championships to be held in Perth next year.

Plewinski still lives in the shadow of retired East German Kristin Otto, the most successful women's swimmer.

Otto, who retired in 1988, won six gold medals at the Seoul Olympics and holds the 100 freestyle world record of 54.73.

Plewinski, a music and English student from St Gervais, has a best time of 55.11, produced in Bonn last August.

"I was very disappointed with my third place behind Otto at Seoul," said Plewinski. "But my hope and I'm sure I can swim a lot faster. My aim is to work towards a gold medal at next year's World Championships."

Sweden's Anders Holmertz was named the meeting's most outstanding swimmer after adding the men's 100 metres freestyle gold medal to the 200 and 400 titles.

Australian Commonwealth Games swimmer Tom Stachewicz, who was scheduled to compete against Holmertz on Sunday, again withdrew because of fatigue.

Stachewicz had pulled out of yesterday's events because of continuing lethargy since his arrival from a high altitude camp in France last November.

He will join his games teammates at a camp in Canberra tomorrow.

Parisi KOs Rubaldino in 1st round

MOSCOW, Jan 7, (AP): Giovanni Parisi of Italy registered a first-round knockout yesterday of Mexico's Roberto Rubaldino to get the right to challenge the reigning World International Boxing Federation champion Pernell Whitaker of the US.

He fought in the lightweight division of up to 61.967 kilograms (130 pounds).

Soviet referee Anatoly Klimanov stopped the fight at two minutes, 47 seconds of the first round, because the Mexican boxer's right eye was injured.

The Italian boxer, three-time world champion among amateurs, looked more confident and experienced before the decision was announced.

For the first time in the history of professional boxing in Moscow, several Soviet boxers took part in the fights. Among them were Khakim Matchanov of Tashkent, who knocked out Belgian boxer Albert Tomas in the first round, and Alexander Lukstun of Moscow, who also knocked out Lupe Guerra of the United States, when less than half a minute of the bout passed.

Both fights were in the super heavyweight division over 86 kilograms (190 pounds).

"The Soviet boxers, I'm sure, will dominate in Europe," said Jon Robinson, IBF vice-president.

Muscovites enthusiastically cheered the boxers, but were surely disappointed by the fights, because three of them ended in the first round.

Scottish FA revise draw

GLASGOW, Jan 7, (Reuters): Revised draw for the third round of the Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup after yesterday's second round replays.

Hearts v Falkirk, Ayr v St Mirren, Morton v Raith, Rangers v St Johnstone, Partick v Aherdeen, Cowdenbeath v Stranraer, Airdrieonians v Inverness Caledonian, Ross County or East Fife v Meadowbank, Motherwell v Clyde, Dundee v Dundee United, Albion v Clydebank, East Stirling v Stirling Albion, Forfar v Celtic, Brechin v Hibernian.

Ties to be played on Saturday, Jan 20.

Austrian takes Victoria Cup

TOKYO, Jan 7, (AP): Austrian Werner Horzog placed second in the Slalom today, but ended up winning the Victoria Cup for this weekend's races, the third in a series of 12 dual meets on Japan's Pro Ski Tour.

In his first race in Japan, Horzog won yesterday's Giant Slalom. Marc Garcia of France took today's Slalom.

SPORTS

Napoli remain on top

ROME, Jan 7, (Reuters): A late header by Andrea Carnevale from a Diego Maradona free kick earned League leaders Napoli a 1-0 home victory against lowly Ascoli on Sunday, leaving the top of Italian soccer's First Division virtually unchanged.

Title contenders AC Milan and Roma blitzed three goals past Cesena and Udinese respectively and Internazionale retained second place with a fine 1-0 away win against Cremonese.

Napoli, who in their last League game of 1989 suffered their first defeat this season away to Lazio, started sluggishly against second-last Ascoli and suffered a setback in the 38th minute when midfielder Luca Fusi left the field injured. He was replaced by Massimo Mauro.

But Napoli, whose much-criticised defence was bolstered by the return of Alessandro Renica, absent through injury for nearly four months, finally got the goal which had eluded them, thanks to Argentinian captain Maradona.

Results

Bologna	1	Juventus	1
Cremonese	0	Lazio	1
Florentina	2	Bari	2
Lecce	2	Genoa	1
AC Milan	3	Cesena	0
Napoli	1	Ascoli	0
Roma	3	Udinese	1
Sampdoria	2	Lazio	0
Verona	1	Atalanta	1

RESULTS of the Hubert H. Humphrey Centre game played on Saturday:

- N/S
1. F. Saymeh & Saad Sulaiman
2. S. Singh & S. Banerjee
3. Bianca Moussali & Ahmed Tawil
EW
1. Salman Ali & George
2. Gajjar & Javahire
3. Sultan Ali & Sherin
Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:
1. D. Materny & B. Moussali
2. M. Maymari & S. Cattermole
3. H. Tanas & C. Savatini

Muster, Van Rensburg finish on top

Sanchez wins New Zealand title

WELLINGTON, Jan 7, (Reuters): Top seeded Spaniard Emilio Sanchez won the New Zealand national tennis title today but only after a five-set marathon against American Richey Reneberg, playing in his first Grand Prix final.

Sanchez, the world number 17, has struggled with his form all week and made heavy weather of dispatching Reneberg 6-7 6-4 6-6 6-4 in 3 1/2 hours.

In the end the experience of Sanchez, who has played 17 Grand Prix finals, paid off as the match became an endurance test. "I don't think I played the big points too well. Maybe if I'd won a couple more, I'd have won the match," said eighth-seeded Reneberg.

"Maybe I was a little tired at the end. It's tough to play a match that long — it's tough to keep the concentration going."

Sanchez raced to a 4-0 lead in the first set but the American staged a remarkable comeback, breaking Sanchez in the sixth and eighth games to take the set in a tiebreak.

The Spaniard said he had felt



Sanchez overcame Reneberg

the pressure, despite being 41 places higher than Reneberg in the world rankings. "I started really fast and it was going well for me, too well for my thinking, and when he started to play better I felt the nerves."

After much seesawing Sanchez capitalised on Reneberg's

serving problems in the deciding set. "I think he got a little down, a little negative, and I was able to take the set," he said.

Although he rated his victory last week in the Hopman Cup with his sister Arantxa slightly higher, Sanchez said his triumph in the \$150,000 Wellington tour-

nament would give him confidence for the Australian Open later this month.

Straight after the singles, Sanchez was back on court to play the doubles final. But the match went to New Zealander Kelly Evernden and Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela, who beat Sanchez and his compatriot Sergio Casal 6-4 7-6.

● In Adelaide, Thomas Muster of Austria rallied from 0-3 in the final set to outlast American Jimmy Arias today and win the \$150,000 Australian Hardcourt Tennis Championship.

Muster won the final 3-6, 6-2 7-5 in 2 hours, 20 minutes.

The Austrian left-hander is on the comeback trail after being seriously injured when hit by a drunk driver in an auto accident in Florida last April.

Muster, the third seed, twice broke Arias' serve in the final set to record his first tournament win since suffering the career-threatening knee injury.

"There were times when I wanted to give up, but I kept work-

24m racecourse

LONDON, Jan 7, (UPI): Lingfield racecourse's \$4 million (\$6.4 million) all-weather track could be closed down in only its first season of use after hard flint stones were found on it during racing, it was reported yesterday.

Romanian stars

BUCHAREST, Jan 7, (UPI): Romanian track and field stars will be among the first athletes participating in international competitions since the overthrow of the Ceausescu regime, Agerpres, the official state news agency, said yesterday.

Govt criticised

SOFIA, Jan 7, (UPI): The head of Bulgarian sports, Georgi Hristov, made a stinging attack yesterday which he criticised the government for interfering in Bulgarian sports, announced the official state news agency, BTA.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NHL games

NEW YORK, Jan 7, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played on Saturday:

Boston	5	Washington	3
NYI	5	Quebec	2
Pittsburgh	5	Winnipeg	3
Montreal	6	Buffalo	4
Toronto	7	Los Angeles	4
Edmonton	4	Hartford	4
Minnesota	4	Detroit	3
St Louis	4	NY Rangers	3
Chicago	8	Philadelphia	5

Top athletes

BELGRADE, Jan 7, (UPI): Over 800 top athletes have fled Eastern Europe for the West in the past 40 years, with Romanians heading the group in terms of population, said Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency, yesterday.

Hungarian soccer

BUDAPEST, Jan 7, (UPI): Sacked Hungarian national soccer coach Bertalan Bicskei raised a few eyebrows Friday when he announced Hungary's 1990 squad, adding yet another chapter to Hungary's soccer scandals. Bicskei, who was fired last month and replaced by Kalman Mészoly, says he is still coach of the national team and will remain so until his contract expires in 1992. But Hungarian Football Federation president, Mihaly Lazcko, said Bicskei has lost control.

Talent scouts

HELSINKI, Jan 7, (UPI): A record 50-odd talent scouts from the NHL scrutinised the Junior World Ice Hockey Championships in Finland this week, looking for future stars.

Hyderabad overwhelm Stalwarts



Ashfaq R. Khan

HYDERABAD Cricket Club (HCC) kept up with their winning ways when they chalked up a 69-run victory over Stalwarts in the Honda Cup cricket tournament match in Salamiya on Friday.

Rodney and Ashfaq R. Khan opened the innings for HCC after they were put in to bat by the Stalwarts skipper, who won the toss. The Salamiya wicket and the ground, which have been levelled recently, played true and fast. The spotless outfield was such that any shot of reasonable power was propelled to the boundary.

Ashfaq opened his account by hitting the first ball he faced for four. Rodney too settled after a few strokes and the partnership flourished.

Ashfaq was at his usual best, exhibiting great timing and superb control in placing the ball. A six over fine-leg was an absolute beauty. Qayyum put an end to this partnership, having Ashfaq caught by Sohail for 50. Rodney followed soon, bowled by left-arm spinner Riffat after making 39 runs.

Sandeep and Sethi had no difficulty in coping with the double spin attack. Both were doing well when Sethi was unfortunately run out for 18. Sandeep (40) and Ashfaq Sr (25) kept up the scoring rate but both were out to rather rash strokes.

Ayub provided the final fireworks with a rapid-fire 25 out and with Ronnie Jr (8 not out) took HCC to 212 for four off the allot-

ted 25 overs.

Qayyum and Sajid were the only successful Stalwart bowlers with two and one wickets respectively. Stalwarts started their innings badly losing Rafiq on the third ball, caught by Sethi off Ronnie. Qaiser scored 20 before Ronnie caught him off his own bowling.

Qayyum and Sohail combined well, mixing caution and aggression, with the latter being more enterprising. Runs started coming at the required rate as both batsmen mastered the bowling.

James brought on the spinners when the score reached 92 and this change proved to be the turning point of the game as Qayyum was caught by Ayub off Satiya.

Sohail too was run out after making 46. After that, Ashfaq Sr (one for 15), Ayub (two for 13) and Rodney (two for five in one over) ran through the Stalwart team, who were all out for 143.

This was HCC's fifth straight win in the tournament.

Dunhill surprises partygoers

NEW YEAR'S Eve partygoers at Bahrain's Diplomat Hotel received an unexpected thrill when they learned that the mystery prize in the Dunhill Draw was no less than a \$30,000 speedboat.

As guests filed into the hotel for Bahrain's most prestigious social event, they each received an invitation from Dunhill staff to take part in a mystery prize draw.

While they danced, the Horizon 200 Powerboat, cleverly concealed under covers, remained hidden until the time for the draw. At 15 minutes to midnight Kathleen Pistillo, the well known radio personality, drew the winning ticket of Rachel Shams Butt and amidst a fanfare of music and swirling smoke the Dunhill Powerboat was revealed. A delighted Shams Butt then went on stage to receive the keys to his prize.

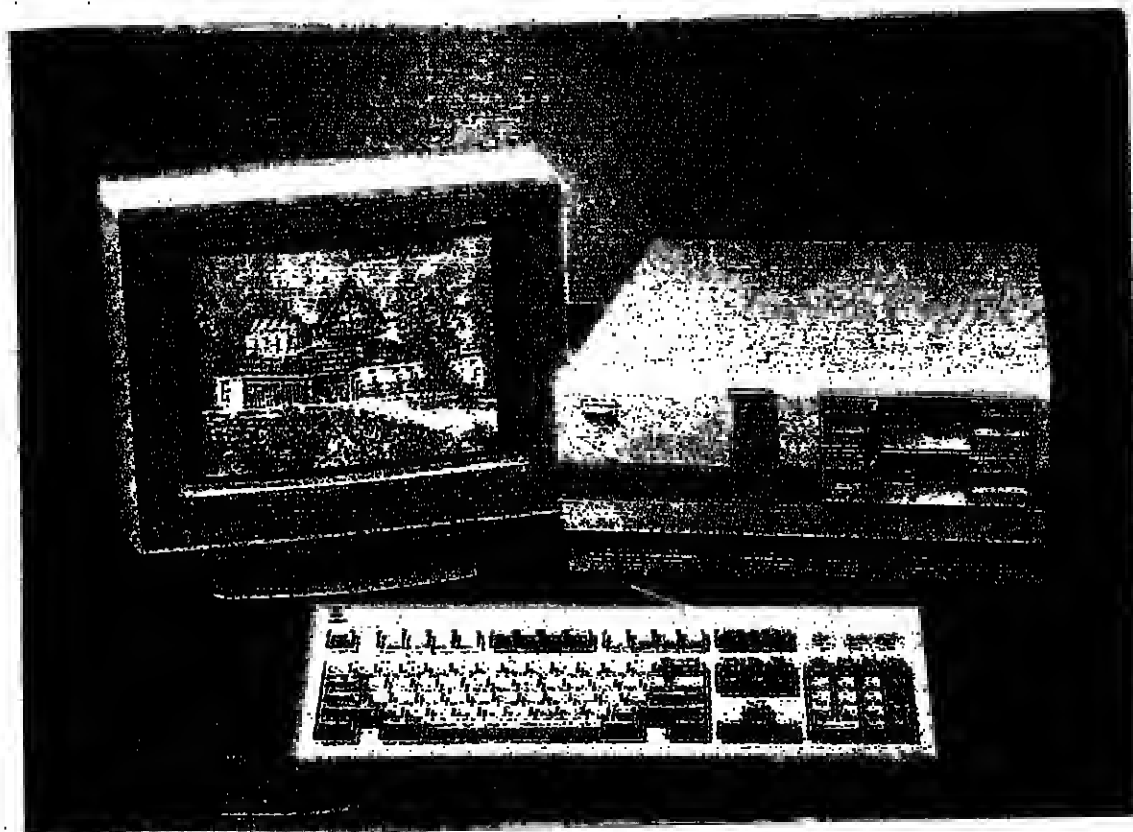
Said an excited partygoer, "We knew the prize was going to be good because Dunhill were presenting it but we had no idea it would be as extravagant as this." The powerboat, specially painted by Dunhill, was complete with a trailer and a host of extras.



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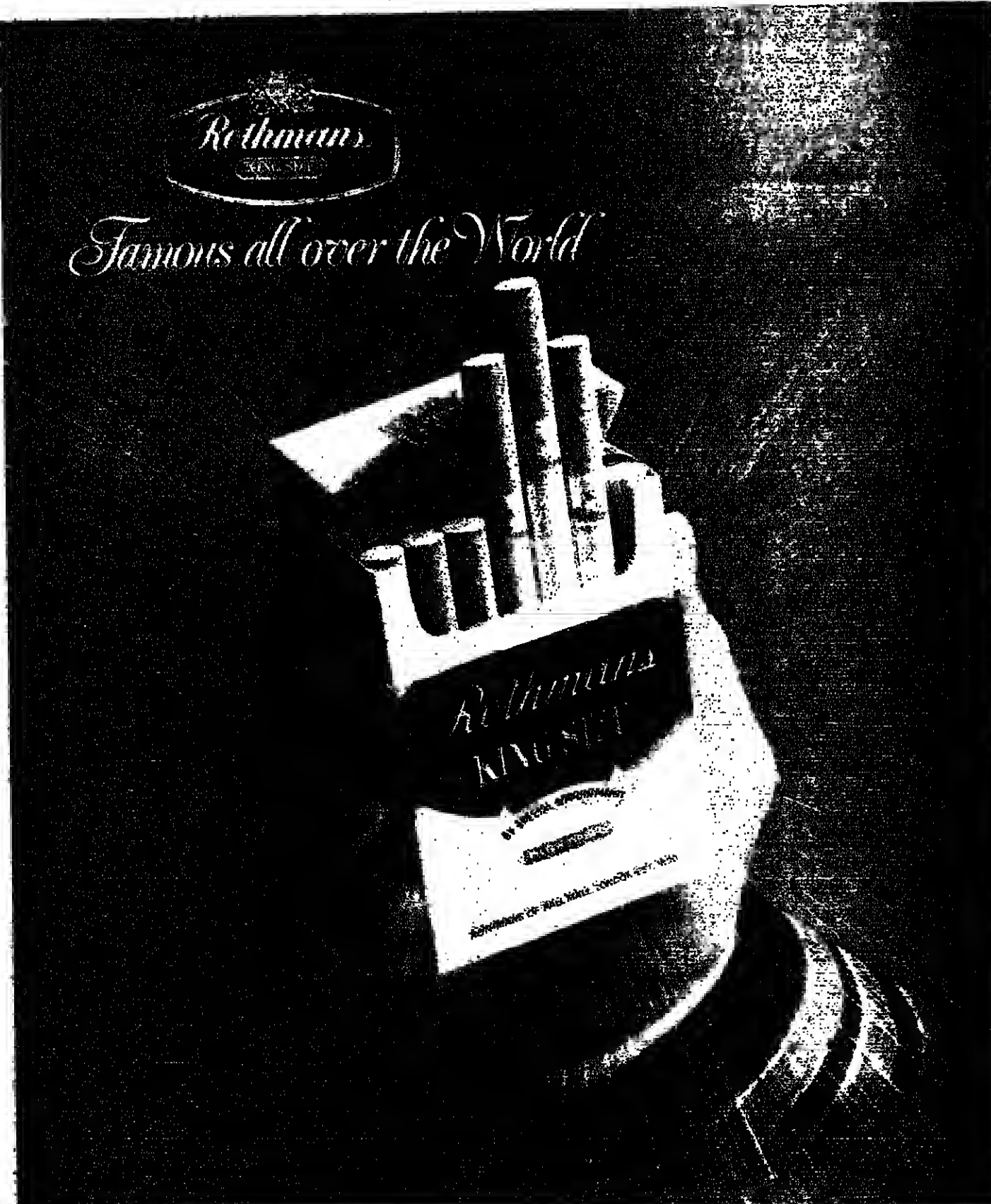


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